

Rapid reaction force to help Kurds

Bush ready to bomb Saddam's nuclear arsenal

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD FORD

PRESIDENT Bush is putting the finishing touches to coalition plans to eliminate Saddam Hussein's nuclear arsenal, amid increasing signs that Iraq emerged from the Gulf war with its nuclear facilities intact.

The Pentagon is also expected to announce today the setting up of an international rapid reaction force in southeast Turkey, which will be ready to fire if Iraqi troops try to harass the Kurdish minority in northern Iraq.

Mr Bush has hinted strongly that he is ready to use renewed military force if the Iraqi leader refuses to comply with United Nations ceasefire resolutions requiring the destruction of all Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

The British government said yesterday that Mr Bush spoke to John Major for 15 minutes and a Whitehall source indicated that Britain would be prepared to take part in military action. The source said the government was

ready to eliminate the Iraqi nuclear capability by "whatever means it takes".

He said the two men had agreed that Saddam had been "lying and cheating" about Iraq's nuclear capability after the Gulf war. The source added that the government was waiting to see what assistance the UN inspection team in Iraq was given in its efforts to discover exactly how much nuclear material remained.

"We hope the UN team will succeed in its effort to discover Iraq's nuclear capability," he said.

The president has, during the past week, conducted a mounting campaign of rhetoric against the Iraqi leader and American officials have accused Baghdad of concealing its nuclear capability in a report to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Saddam's survival in power has become a growing obstacle to Mr Bush's efforts to promote stability in the Middle East after the six-week campaign to liberate Kuwait. The White House has again urged the Iraqi military to overthrow Saddam, and Mr Bush described him this week as a tyrant and a liar with "bloody hands".

The Iraqi government responded with similar language yesterday, according to the Iraqi News Agency. Hamad Youssef Humadi, the Iraqi information minister, branded Mr Bush a "malicious, wicked liar". Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister, said: "When Bush deals with international issues, he speaks quietly and uses ordinary political language. However, when he moves to issues related to Iraq, he becomes nervous, uses vulgar language and departs from logic."

The UN said yesterday that some of the inspection team had decided to stay in Iraq for another week to carry out further checks on nuclear sites. Nine members of the team will leave Baghdad today to report to the atomic energy agency in Vienna.

Saddam has promised to grant the inspectors access to any sites. However, US intelligence has reported that Iraqi troops were seen last week burying components of an electro-magnetic nuclear fuel separator used to enrich uranium.

In a separate attempt to

bring the Iraqi leader to heel, the allies have, for some weeks, been discussing the deployment of a "residual force" to protect the Kurds. Diplomats in Washington said yesterday that the force would be mainly American, but it would also include British troops and about 1,300 others from France, Italy and possibly The Netherlands and Spain. As the host country, Turkey would also have a contingent.

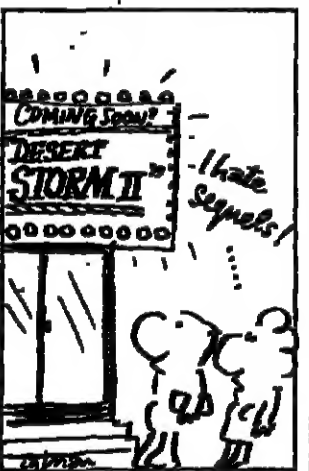
Officials said they had fixed no date for the deployment, but the soldiers would begin to move soon. "These will be real soldiers," said one diplomat, "not support units".

Defence ministry sources in London said yesterday that the British contribution to the 5,000-man allied brigade will be a company of 250-300 men from 40 Commando, Royal Marines. The company, from Taunton, in Somerset, will act in an infantry role, although they might be called on to use their mountain warfare skills. They will be equipped with an array of weapons, including the latest SA80 rifles.

The Royal Marines are part of 3 Commando Brigade, which was sent to northern Iraq in April as part of the multinational team to help Kurdish refugees and to set up safe havens. The commandos played a key role in bringing down half a million Kurds from the mountains on the Iraq-Turkey border, where they had fled.

British sources said the new force would be set up quickly so that the 3,300 allied troops still in northern Iraq could be withdrawn rapidly.

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No help for councils hit by BCCI collapse

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday ruled out the use of taxpayers money to help local authorities hit by the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

His decision, announced to the Commons, leaves the 29 councils affected by the bank's closure with little alternative but to add the cost of their £100 million losses to next year's poll tax bills.

The only hope of averting rises of up to £20 a head in the community charge is a plan by local authority associations to take legal action against bro-

kers who arranged to place council monies with BCCI. John Major told the Commons: "I don't believe it would be right to give preferential treatment to local authorities over other depositors in BCCI. Any accountant or finance director should know that if an institution pays over the market rate of interest, it is in the form of a risk premium."

Affected council leaders will meet in London on Tuesday to consider suing brokers.

Regulator's verdict, page 21

Met Office's hot prediction: designer forecasts

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ON THE day when most of the nation sweltered, forecasters offered a service to suit the more usual mixed bag of weather: personalised predictions.

The Meteorological Office is preparing more and better services to the public and industry, including hourly rain forecasts for individual towns which can be received by fax machine or telephone.

The forecasters are also considering installing screens in the foyers of company offices to display conditions overhead and likely developments within minutes and hours.

"People will be able to decide whether to go to lunch now or wait, depending on the likelihood of rain," said Bernard Herdman, director of commercial services at the Meteo-

rological Office in Bracknell, Berkshire.

News of the designer services came as temperatures in the southeast and parts of the Pennines and east Midlands soared into the high 70s F, melting some roads in Kent. Cromer, on the Norfolk coast, was heading for the day's heat record with 87.

The weather today is expected to return the more seasonal temperatures in the southeast of around the low 70s with some rain in the north and northwest.

But it was a complete absence of sun which caused thousands of tourists to stare skywards and chant in Hawaii, and the superstitious to don red underwear and stay indoors in Mexico, when the moon delivered the most spectacular eclipse this century across a swath of the Eastern Pacific. In Hawaii, where eclipse mania has

been reigning for months, some 400 astronomers peered down telescopes at the four-minute corona of the darkened sun, their view somewhat marred by the airborne ash blown from Mount Pinotubo in the Philippines.

In northern Mexico, where eclipses have always been taken as an ominous portent, the mood was more sombre. Fruit trees were adorned with red paint and ribbons to deflect "eclipse rays" and women of childbearing age put on red underwear and metal trinkets to ward off misfortune. "Astrologers tell us that this colour absorbs the eclipse rays," said Manuel Gonzalez, a farmer in the Baja California region, at the centre of the eclipse path.

In a calmer atmosphere in Britain, the Met Office went on spelling out details of its new services. Another one

Major rules out cash boost for Gorbachev

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major made clear yesterday that there will be no significant sums of cash on the table for President Gorbachev at next week's London summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

The Soviet leader will be offered know-how and practical co-operation and a framework to follow up his first meeting with the G7 leaders, which the prime minister called "the beginning of a new process of co-operation and dialogue". But Mr Major said that he and other summit leaders would be seeking assurances that the Soviet Union will not merely pass laws on economic reforms but put them into action.

Mr Gorbachev will face tough questioning on the Soviet Union's continued high level of arms spending, and on the implementation of arms agreements already entered into. At a Downing Street press conference yesterday, Mr Major spoke of the dangers of a world trade war if the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs

and Trade talks was allowed to fail. Saying that he regarded it as one of the most important subjects on the international scene, the prime minister called for a specific commitment from his fellow heads of state and government at the G7 summit "to make sure there is a sufficient degree of political clout to ensure success in the Uruguay round". If it failed, he said, people would be tempted into protectionism, erecting artificial trade barriers and sparking a trade war.

Setting out his objectives as host to the leaders of the United States, Germany, France, Japan, Italy and Canada, Mr Major said that the theme would be "building world partnership and strengthening international order". He expected the summit sessions to include discussions on Yugoslavia, the Middle East peace process, Iraq and South Africa. Indicating the British attitude to sanctions, he talked of "the need to ensure the economic recovery which will be needed for the political reforms to succeed in the medium and long term" in South Africa.

Mr Major, who will be urging on the G7 gathering his plan for a United Nations register of arms supplies, said: "We cannot allow a country like Iraq ever again to build up a huge arsenal of military weapons unchecked and in some cases unknown." He is calling for a UN-maintained, "transparent" arms register which will enable the nations of the security council, which include most of the arms suppliers, to monitor arms build-ups in potential world trouble spots. He added: "Our



Gorbachev: to face tough questioning at G7 summit

Interest cut opening

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY's decision not to raise interest rates has paved the way for a cut in base rates in Britain. A cut would coincide with inflation figures out today which are expected to show the annual rate slowing to 5.7 per cent in June.

The Bundesbank had been expected to raise interest rates to counter inflationary pressures. Instead, it left policy

unchanged, providing Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, with an opportunity to reduce interest rates for the sixth time this year, again by a half point.

With no sign of an imminent recovery from recession, political and market pressure has built for cheaper credit to kick-start the economy.

Business, page 21

261 killed in pilgrim air crash

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

ALL 261 people on a chartered Canadian DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims back to Nigeria were killed when it crashed in flames at Jeddah airport, ending yet another Haj disasterously just as Saudi Arabian officials were describing it as the most successful in years.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency said that there were 247 Nigerian pilgrims on board and 14 crew. The plane's Canadian owners, Nationalair, confirmed that the DC-8 was carrying 14 Canadian crew.

The pilot reported a fire on board seven minutes after take-off and was returning to make an emergency landing when the plane crashed four minutes later. He radioed the control tower to say he "had lost command of his plane and that there was a fire on board and he wanted to return to the airport".

The agency said, quoting a statement by the Saudi civil aviation department, the plane came down half-a-mile short of the runway.

Continued on page 20, col 4

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

STREET CRED

Janet Street-Porter, no mean ruffler of BBC feathers, tells Kate Muir how she keeps her car (which is six feet up) to the ground Page 12

BUT NOT FOR HIM

Mike Gaffney's ban from the England team stays in place in spite of South Africa's return to the world fold. Alan Lee agrees Page 36

BIG DEALER

Picasso was destined to be big, but did the dealer Ambroise Vollard make him bigger? John Russell Taylor on an unusual man of art Page 13

BUMPY RIDE

InterCity 225 trains are having their suspension modified after passengers complained of "bouncing" Page 20

ABIDING GRACE

The Three Graces may soon be on show in a British museum if the company which owns Canova's statue will sell to the Barclay brothers Page 5

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The Institute of Chartered Accountants' PE 1 May 1991 results will be published tomorrow. Copies will be on sale this evening at Charing Cross, King's Cross and Victoria stations, Marble Arch and Leicester Square.

Treasurers blame Bank of England for £100m losses

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL treasurers who invested millions of pounds in the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International yesterday defended their action and blamed the Bank of England for losses of £100 million.

Martin Johnson, chief accountant at Stockport borough council, Manchester, which stands to lose £1.15 million, adding £5 to the poll tax, said

that BCCI had been listed by the Bank of England as an approved deposit-taker. The environment department, which sent a list to town halls on June 21 naming BCCI as an approved bank, has said the list was purely for information. Mr Johnson said, however, "Under the law we are only allowed to place money with banks on that list."

The law prevents us investing money elsewhere. If the Bank of England knew the extent of the trouble this bank was in, why the hell did not they take it off the list before now?

He criticised City commentators who said that it had been common knowledge that BCCI was in trouble. "It may be that the governor of the Bank of England mentioned it over lunch to other bankers but no one told us," Mr Johnson said. "We relied on this list as evidence of the security of these banks. It is obvious now that there is no guarantee the Bank of England is even regulating the banks whose names appear on the list."

Philip Grayling, borough treasurer at Wigan, which faces losses of £2.1 million, predicted that local authorities would withdraw from the secondary banking market as a result of the crash. He said he had given BCCI notice at 9am on Friday that Wigan was withdrawing its investment but the Bank of England stepped in to close BCCI before the council could complete the withdrawal.

"After the failure of Chancery Bank earlier this year we had already decided to withdraw from the secondary banking market," Mr Grayling said. "I believe there will now be a flight from the second-tier banks."

Others were less charitable about the activities of the council treasurers. One banker specialising in work with local authorities said it would have been easy to have seen the writing on the wall.

"If one of the councils to which we are bankers had phoned for advice we would have told them that we had severed our connections with BCCI nine months ago. BCCI was offering rates of interest an eighth to a quarter of a per cent higher than anyone else. Anyone with a bit of market savvy would realise that must carry an increased risk."

"Treasurers tend to be obsessed with an extra fraction of a per cent. What they forget is that it would take 400 years at a quarter of one per cent to recoup a £1 million loss."

A local authority treasurer said treasurers should have questioned the validity of the list. Apart from BCCI it included the names of Chancery and another bank which were in financial trouble earlier this year and were in the hands of receivers at the time the list was issued.

BCCI closure, page 1
A failure to cope, page 2

Islanders tot up the moral balance sheet

By KERRY GILL

THE Western Isles council, which last night confirmed it had £23 million invested with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, faces financial disaster after the government said it was not considering any cash aid.

The Outer Hebridean islands' 32,000 population could have its poll tax bills increased from £77 to more than £100.

The loss, by far the biggest faced by any local authority in Britain, is likely to hit council services and capital spending projects. Shocked islanders are considering the implications for every household and craft from the Butt of Lewis to Barra.

Many of them, who hold strong Christian views and observe the Sabbath strictly, felt that the council was morally wrong to have dealt with a bank with such a bad reputation. Time magazine described BCCI as a "notorious cash conduit for drug smugglers, arms dealers and rapacious tyrants".

As a meeting of the council's policy committee began, Murdo Aftin, its chairman, said: "People are stunned by the amount." Further details are unlikely to emerge before Tuesday at an emergency meeting of the council.

One question which its financial leaders will be asked is why so much was invested after other councils, such as Strathclyde region, dropped dealings with BCCI when it was disclosed that it was involved in laundering drug money last year and had operating losses.

George Macleod, the council's chief executive, cut short his holiday in France to travel back to Stornoway. Asked for his reaction as he drove off the

ferry, he said: "It is one of shock and dismay. But I cannot comment further until I have the facts from my director of finance."

Mrs Mary Bremner, chairwoman of the council's social work committee, said: "I must be honest. I didn't know our council had this money invested in this bank. Nor did many of my colleagues."

A measure of the concern on the islands was the decision by the *Stornoway Gazette* to rush out a second edition of the weekly newspaper, a rare action reserved for major disasters.

Its acting editor, Donald MacInnes, said: "The feeling in the islands is that this loss is horrific. The first reaction was that if people were expected to pay an enormously high poll tax as a result, then it wasn't on, because they weren't going to bail out officials who were misguided in what they did. Secondly, how on earth did the £23 million go into the one bank?"

Allen Stewart, the Scottish local government minister, said that the government was not considering compensation for the four Scottish councils which could lose a total of more than £27 million. He said councils were responsible for their own dealings.

Asked whether the loss to the Western Isles was a financial disaster, he said: "We will just have to wait and see what happens. It did come as a very major shock. It is not a matter for the Scottish Office."

The office is expected to meet representatives of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, although the government reiterated its position that it was a matter for the councils and the banking authorities.



Class comfort: Malcolm Kemp and his wife, Naomi, yesterday at King's College hospital, south London, where Mr Kemp described how he was shot in the thigh by an escaped IRA suspect (Stewart Tensler writes). The Kemps were going on holiday and were on their way to

Heathrow airport on Sunday when two men who had just escaped from Brixton prison flagged them down. Mr Kemp, aged 31, said: "We saw two men who were jumping out into the road. They tried to stop another car and then they were waving down ours. We didn't intend to stop, but we

had to slow down to avoid running them over. My first thought was to accelerate away." One of the men then produced a gun. "One of the guys was near my door and I said, 'We can't stop', and he shot me. I thought it was then a good idea to give up and get out of the car. My

bottle went," said Mr Kemp. Mrs Kemp, aged 31, the daughter of Lord Brain, said she did not know if they had wanted to take her hostage but she did not believe they wanted to kill her. The escaped men, Piers McAnley and Norman Quintinan, have not been caught.

Sexually explicit scenes censored

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TWO sexually explicit programmes in Channel 4's recent *Banned* series were censored yesterday by the Broadcasting Standards Council.

The adjudications against *Sex and the Censors* and *WR: Mysteries of the Organism* came the day after the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to prosecute Channel 4 for obscenity because of insufficient evidence. Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad had put the case to the DPP in April.

The council, chaired by Lord Rees-Mogg, ruled that a masturbation scene in *WR: Mysteries of the Organism*, although partially masked by electronic means, went beyond acceptable limits. Eight people complained about the programme, a 1973 film by the Yugoslav director Dusan Makavejev, broadcast with a warning at 10pm. Channel 4 described the film as "a work of serious intent, a black political-sexual comedy to explore the work of the sexologist Wilhelm Reich, and repression in the Eastern bloc".

The council held that some scenes in *Sex and the Censors*, a documentary that showed simulations of sexual mutilation and gang rape, were "wholly unacceptable". Twenty-three viewers complained about the programme, transmitted with a warning at 9pm, which, the council said,

was too early. Channel 4 argued that by showing briefly some clips of "reality", the programme would, for most viewers, strengthen the case for censorship. The Independent Television Commission, which had not been asked to preview the programme, said that the 9pm scheduling was a grave error of judgment and questioned whether it should have been broadcast at all.

The lower court of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg has ruled that the BBC, Independent Television, Publications and Ireland's RTE were breaking EC law in refusing to allow other publications to print weekly TV listings (Tom Walker writes).

The ruling means that the EC commission can now confidently call upon companies to release jealously-guarded "intellectual property" to competitors. So, not only will newspapers be able to continue publishing weekly television lists, but industries such as computers could now be opened up to smaller competitors now frustrated because big rivals have withheld information.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, said: "Companies cannot unreasonably sit on their intellectual property in order to stifle enterprise."

There may be an appeal.

London zoo loses two more chiefs

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TWO more members of the governing council of the Zoological Society of London, Lord McAlpine of West Green and Lord Clinton-Davis, yesterday followed the example of the treasurer, Lord Peyton, and resigned.

All the resignations came in the wake of the government's refusal to help London Zoo out of its financial distress.

Their departure indicated a split in the 21-member governing council over how seriously the plight of the zoo should be presented, with the three peers feeling that the picture painted of possible rescue for the zoo by funding from the private sector was too optimistic.

Lord McAlpine, the former treasurer of the Conservative party, who is abroad, said in a short statement that he had resigned "for the same reasons" as Lord Peyton, the former Tory cabinet minister, with whom he has been closely allied in the search for more resources for the zoo from the government.

Lord Peyton said that all three peers shared the view that the zoo's statements about its future, issued after the governing council's meeting on Tuesday, should have reflected more "grim realism" and were more optimistic than was warranted.

Lord Peyton told *The Times*

"We should make clear the seriousness and gravity of the situation and not deceive ourselves or anyone else into thinking that there are all sorts of prospects of rescue for the zoo. I don't myself believe that anyone will do anything without the government first stepping in."

He believed that the zoo should simply have announced that it would close in September 1992 unless the government offered help.

Lord Clinton-Davis, the former Labour minister, said: "The tactics of trying to live on in the hope that something might turn up are fundamentally flawed. I am not prepared to go along with that."

It was learnt yesterday that a fourth peer, Lord Armstrong, the former cabinet secretary, had also tendered his resignation from the governing council.

A spokeswoman for the zoo said, however, that that had nothing to do with the present situation. "Lord Armstrong offered his resignation in May to take effect in September," she said.

She added that the zoo was "very sorry" to lose its council members, but that its work would continue. Suggestions that the council was disintegrating were completely without foundation, she said.

Prudential sales staff plan action

SALES staff at the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, are to take industrial action after the breakdown of talks at the conciliation service Acas, their union said yesterday.

Some 13,000 members of the National Union of Insurance Workers at the company will take unspecified action aimed at "maximising disruption" to the Prudential. It is the first decision to take action for 20 years.

The union alleges that the company has breached conditions attached to a restructuring plan.

Army helicopter

THE army is expected to buy an American attack helicopter off the shelf, with the Gulf-proven Apache one of the favourites. Alan Clark, defence procurement minister, announced in a Commons written answer yesterday that the government would be seeking proposals next spring for providing the army with a new attack helicopter.

Nets protest

A youth in a small boat punctured a Greenpeace dingy and a boom as members of the environmental group tried to pull the boom across the mouth of Newlyn harbour, Cornwall, yesterday. Greenpeace is trying to stop three trawlers leaving port to fish with monofilament drift nets which Greenpeace claims cause the deaths of dolphins and porpoises.

Retrial for police

Two police officers accused of perjury over incidents outside the News International plant at Wapping, east London, in 1987 are to face a retrial, the Crown Prosecution Service said. A Central Criminal Court jury failed to reach verdicts on Wednesday in the cases of Inspector Derek Watts and Sergeant Colin Langstone. They were remanded on bail until the retrial, set for October 28.

Pay offer made

University vice-chancellors made an offer yesterday to lecturers to try to break the deadlock in salary negotiations. The lecturers, who have had a 5 per cent rise on account, would receive another 1.4 per cent in September, with another 1 per cent available for discretionary payments in January. The Association of University Teachers wants 15 per cent.

By the way The Times overseas editions: Australia \$25, Canada \$25, Hong Kong \$25, India \$25, Japan \$25, New Zealand \$25, Singapore \$25, South Africa \$25, Switzerland \$25, Taiwan \$25, Thailand \$25, USA \$25.

Teacher alleges race bias

A MATHEMATICS teacher was ordered to apologise after correcting a parent who argued that three times tonight was three, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Ratna Alexander, a teacher at Hatcham Wood secondary school, Lewisham, south-east London, cited the example as one of a number of cases of racial discrimination that she said had led to her suspension from the school in October.

She told the tribunal, at Ebury Bridge, that the parent had asked her why she had marked the sum as wrong. He had admitted his mistake after her explanation, but she was told to apologise by Pat Culter, acting headmistress of the school.

Mrs Alexander, aged 53, of Forrest Hill, south London, says that she was discriminated against by Lewisham education authority after she tried to improve standards at the school, where she had taught for 13 years.

Oxford architecture studies a return to the classics

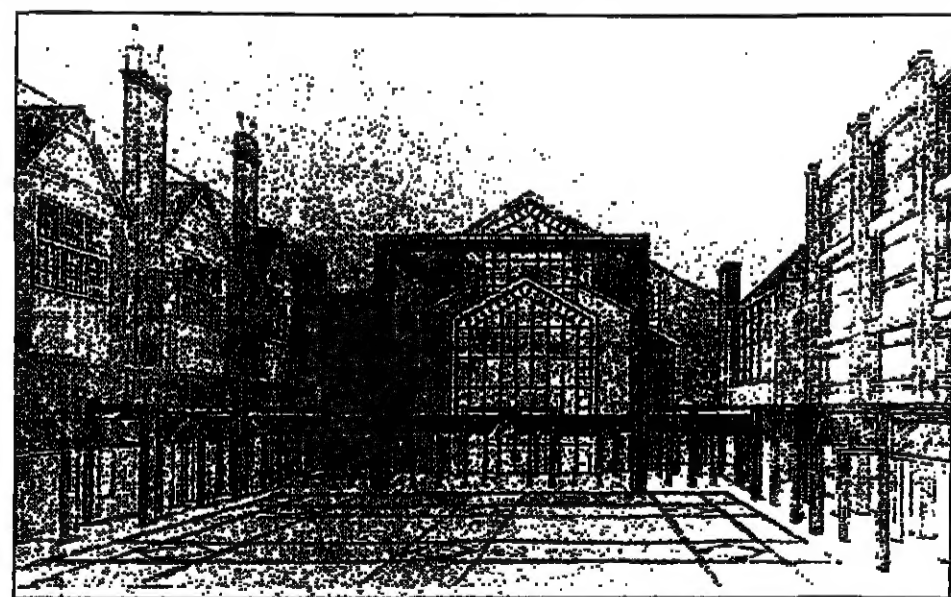
By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

STYLE wars are breaking out with a vengeance among the dreaming spires of Oxford, where modernists have held unchallenged sway over the university architectural scene for years.

The *casus belli* is the imminent arrival of the new Master at St Peter's College, Professor John Barron, who has taught at the Prince of Wales's architecture school.

The thought that an expert on classical architecture, a director of the Institute for Classical Studies at London university no less, should be about to assume a key position in university patronage has had the architectural press desperately combing the quads in search of students who might have sighted the prince himself on a clandestine visit to view new plans for the college.

This week, *Building Design* carries a front-page report suggesting that an Italian architect, Paolo



Degree of traditionalism: Portoghesi's design for a quad from disparate elements

Portoghesi, was awarded the commission for the college's new international property law centre in a last-minute switch.

Portoghesi describes his dream as "classicism in a

new key". Professor Barron calls it "attractive, post-modern Palladian, which takes the college in a completely new direction".

Portoghesi's powerful

contrast to the flat-roofed shoebox containing the college's recently completed hall of residence. He sees his challenge as that of forming a characteristic Oxford quad out of disparate elements.

Opposite the hall of residence is a pleasant gabled range of a 1900 girls' school, recently acquired by the college. In the centre, the new building forms a clever play on the pediment-within-a-pediment theme of Palladio's Venetian churches, at once echoing the Victorian gables and the glass front offices, linked by a simple colonnade.

Of the eight architects invited to submit schemes, the final choice lay between two - Portoghesi's and an elegant minimalist modern design in the form of a cylinder by Kenneth Armstrong, who has just won the competition for a Japanese cultural centre in Paris, next to the Eiffel Tower.

The scrutiny committee was evenly divided between them, but the governing body of college fellows voted strongly in favour of Portoghesi.

Other architects who participated include Tchaik Chassay, David Chipperfield, Michael Manser, Frank

Woods (architect of the hall of residence) and John Winter.

The main purpose of the proposed building is to house the college's library on patent law. On the ground floor will be a gallery for its art collection, and, at the top, room for junior research fellows.

John Barron dismisses any suggestion that the Prince of Wales has been directly involved. The commission none the less represents an important victory for the prince's principles.

Echoing recent sentiments of Robert Venturi on the National Gallery, Portoghesi cannot see why his project should come under immediate attack in the architectural press even before it has been published.

"We have entered competitions this year in France, Germany and Japan," he said. "Each project is tailored to its particular context, and, in the other countries, the architectural press happily accept it."

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2-5 PM (SUBJECT TO LOCAL VARIATION)

SPY 110150

Liverpool MP jailed for refusing to pay the poll tax

By RONALD FAUX

TERRY Fields, the Labour MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, was sentenced to 60 days in prison yesterday for failing to pay a £427 poll tax demand.

The court's decision comes a week before the start of action that could lead to Mr Fields being dropped by Labour as a candidate at the next election. A high-level Labour committee is expected to hear claims that the Militant-supporting MP has brought a charge that could eventually prevent him being endorsed for the next election.

Mr Fields arrived for yesterday's hearing before South Sefton magistrates amid an

anti-poll tax demonstration, with cars hooting their horns and people shouting support for him.

He said: "I would love to say yes, I am paying my poll tax, but 15 million people are in a campaign with me who are told that the poll tax is a scam. I am inundated by Broadgreen constituency party, whose policy is to oppose the poll tax."

Mr Fields, of Bootle, appeared on the court list with his wife, Maureen, who is also accused of not paying the charge. South Sefton council sought an order sending them to prison for wilfully refusing

or culpably neglecting to pay the charge.

Mr Fields declined to make any statement in court and refused to give information about his means. James Coton, chairman of the bench, told him: "We gave you every opportunity to speak on your own behalf and we feel you have refused every opportunity to pay the poll tax. You have been given numerous chances. You are guilty of wilful refusal and you leave us no alternative than to sentence you to 60 days. Either pay that money or serve the imprisonment."

Mr Fields flashed and appeared shocked when he heard the decision. He was applauded by about 20 supporters in the public gallery as two policemen escorted him to the cells.

John Farrell, community charge manager for Sefton, had told the court that he had served the summons for the hearing on February 13 at Mr Fields's address, where there was a notice in the window saying: Pay No Poll Tax. He said that Mr Fields, along with everyone pursued for non-payment, had been given every opportunity to contact the authority to arrange payment.

Even at that late stage it was open for him to discuss arrangements for payment. The council had been advised that an attachment of earnings order could only be applied to a member of parliament if the MP concerned authorised it.

Mr Farrell said: "Mr Fields has made it clear in the past that he did not seem to wish to pay the community charge. The opportunity was given to him but he did not contact the authority to discuss it."

A charging order was not made against the MP because he lived in a council house and bailiffs had been unable to obtain from him goods of a value to cover the debt. When the magistrates announced their decision there were angry shouts from the public gallery, which was cleared by police.

As Mr Fields was taken from the court he had with him photographs of his family and a copy of Peter Taffel's book, *Liverpool - A City that Dared to Fight*.

The case against Mrs Fields was adjourned until September.

On Monday, Labour's organisation committee will consider a report on the activities of Militant during the Liverpool Walton by-election campaign and will start a fresh wave of expulsions. The failure of Mr Fields to campaign actively for Peter Kilfoyle, the official candidate, already figures high in the report drawn up by Joyce Gould, Labour's director of organisation.



Can pay, won't pay: Terry Fields being greeted by supporters as he arrived at the court in Liverpool yesterday

Officers unaware of asylum ruling

By QUENTIN COWDRI
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN ASYLUM seeker who disappeared in Zaire after being deported from Britain had been returned there because immigration officers had not realised that a judge had ruled the man should stay in Britain pending a further review of his case, a court was told yesterday.

John Laws, Treasury counsel, said immigration officers had not appreciated on the evening of May 1 that earlier that day a court undertaking had been made that the deportation order should be frozen.

Referring to the undertaking made before Mr Justice Garland, he said: "With great respect to Mr Justice Garland, it may very well be that words such as 'we will do our best to take him off the plane' have been recorded by the judge as an undertaking and not understood that way by the person who said it."

The High Court has been told that after the undertaking immigration officers made some attempts to stop the deportation but had abandoned their efforts after learning that the Zairean had already boarded the plane at Heathrow airport.

The Zairean, who is not being named for his own protection, was last seen in Zaire on June 14. He had fled to Britain after allegedly being beaten and imprisoned for opposing the dictatorship of President Mobutu.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, and Peter Lloyd, the Home Office minister responsible for immigration, are being accused of committing a serious contempt of court for failing to ensure that the deportation order was frozen. On Wednesday, the High Court dismissed contempt proceedings against three civil servants involved in the case.

Mr Laws accepted that Mr Justice Garland was clear a formal undertaking had been made, saying it would be "unseemly" for the Home Office to assert otherwise. However, no one within the department had understood that such a pledge had been given and government lawyers had no instructions to give such a promise.

The court has been told that immigration officers abandoned attempts to stop the deportation at 6.15pm on May 1 - 15 minutes before the plane's listed take-off. The plane left at 6.47pm.

Mr Justice Brown, presiding over yesterday's hearing, said there could be an element of public concern over the case. It was "curious" that the department could not get the asylum seeker off the plane, which flew to Zaire via Paris.

Advisers 'cheated investors of £4m'

By RAY CLANCY

FOUR young business directors swindled at least £4 million from clients and used it to fund a lavish lifestyle, a court was told yesterday. One of them was only 18 when the fraud began.

Christopher Wright, aged 29, of Brentford, west London, James Krekic, 33, of Wootton under Edge, Gloucestershire, Andrew Woodhouse, 39, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, and Gordon Davies, 32, of Romford, Essex, admitted conspiracy to steal.

The Central Criminal Court was told that they set up as Garston Amhurst Associates, investment advisers, in 1980 and quickly began "cheating" investors. They dealt with life assurance, pensions and unit trusts, but rarely made any profit. Much of the money from clients was used to finance a lavish lifestyle that included luxurious entertaining, worldwide conventions, including a trip to Hawaii, and expensive cars.

"Anything was fair game," Richard Sutton, for the prosecution, said. Three hundred investors had lost at least £4 million, but because documents were missing the true figure might never be known.

Only months after the launch of the company, Wright, then 18, began milking accounts, Mr Sutton said. He told his fellow directors who agreed to continue the practice. The fraud "snowballed" and was simple to carry out so long as more clients were persuaded to invest their savings and keep accounts "topped up".

The case continues today.

Millions suffer work-related stress

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of Britons are suffering from work-related stress as a result of the competitive Eighties and the recession-hit Nineties, according to a leading psychologist.

They are working harder and longer and are more prone to stress-related illnesses, Cary Cooper, head of the department of organisational psychology at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, said. Company mergers and acquisitions and department reshuffles have pushed employees nearer the brink of burnout, he said.

Professor Cooper has been commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive to study the benefits of stress counselling to see if it works and is cost effective. A study of Post Office employees in the North showed a 66 per cent reduction in absence, after the counselling session. The exercise showed that for every 175 employees counselled £1,000 was saved. However, staff assistance programmes are still in their infancy.

Professor Cooper says the drive over the past decade for a more efficient and competitive workforce has taken its toll on employees. This had been exacerbated by the recession, giving workers the added worry of job insecurity. "When I studied during the 1970s a lot of people had job security and it was like being in the Church of England,"

Professor Cooper said. "Now organisations are getting rid of middle managers in a 'decruitment' exercise to remove a layer of bureaucracy."

His comments follow a study carried out in the United States in January on a random sample of 600 full-time American workers. The study, published this week, showed that 72 per cent of

employees said they suffered from three or more stress-related symptoms.

Professor Cooper said the situation was probably worse in this country than in America as it had gone through greater periods of change. The Thatcher era has been marked by both technological and economic change and the country was also facing substantial

social changes. The incidence of work-related stress had increased markedly in the past 20 years and more people were taking sick leave due to anxiety, backache, headaches and insomnia.

"Those on the shop floor work till they drop while senior managers take a few days off every now and then, saying they have 'flu'," he said.

Add number of points indicated for each of these working conditions which produce stress.

Three points each:
Company has been taken over recently.
Staff reductions/pay-offs in last year.
Department/company has major reorganisation.
Staff expect company to be sold or relocated.
Employee benefits significantly cut recently.
Mandatory overtime frequently required.
Employees have little control over how they do their work.
Consequences of making a mistake at work are severe.
Work loads very greatly.
Most work is machine paced or fast paced.
Staff must react quickly and accurately to change.
Personal conflicts are commonplace.

Two points each:
Few available opportunities for advancement.
Bad time holders getting things done.
Inadequate staffing, money or technology.
Pay is below the going rate.
Sick and vacation benefits below the norm.
Employees are rotated between shifts.
New machines/work methods have been introduced.
Noise/vibration levels are high or temperature keeps changing.
Employees normally isolated from one another.
Performance of work units normally below average.

One point each:
Few or no windows or natural lighting.
Employees have little or no privacy.
Meal breaks are unpredictable.
Work is either sedentary or physically exhausting.

Now subtract total points for stress reducers from total points for stress producers. The result may range from minus 50 points for excellent working conditions to 60 points for extremely high stress. Source: New York Times

Add number of points for these stress reducing conditions.

Three points each:
Management takes firm action to reduce stress.
Mental health benefits are provided.
Company has formal employee communications programme.
Staff given information on coping with stress.
Staff given clear job descriptions.
Management and staff talk openly with each other.
Employees are free to talk with one another.
Company provides courses/stress-reduction classes.
Staff recognized and rewarded for their contributions.

Two points each:
Work rules are published and the same for everyone.
Child care programmes are available.
Employees can work flexible hours.
Perks are granted fairly.
Employees have access to necessary technology.
Staff and management trained in resolving conflicts.
Staff receive training when assigned new tasks.
Company encourages work and personal support groups.
Staff have place and time for relaxation.

One point each:
Staff assistance programme is available.
Each employee's work space is not crowded.
Staff can put up personal items in their work areas.
Management appreciates humour in the workplace.
Programmes for care of the elderly are available.

SATURDAY REVIEW

ENCORE IN LA



LA's sleekest had begun to sneak, amid whispers, towards the doors, worried about missing tables in restaurants they had had to book a month before. Then a voice: 'They're all crazy. Don't they know the show ain't over until the fat guy sings Nessun Dorma?'

Brian James talks to Pavarotti about singing for something and nothing

MOOD INDIGO



Marco Polo inspired the shipment of indigo from India to England and now (via Levi Strauss), indigo is very much the colour of fashion. Liz Smith reports

BIRT'S LAW



John Birt is known as 'the outsider' in the BBC, but the viewers want to know how radical the next director-general really is

The Times on Saturday: order your copy today

600 pupils screened against TB

ALL 600 pupils at a secondary school in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, are being screened against tuberculosis after a staff member developed an active form of the disease (Thomson Prentice writes).

Parents of the children attending Marshland high school were told yesterday that the chances of the infection spreading were extremely low. The staff member, who has not been named, is being kept off work.

Pupils not immunised against TB are being asked to give a small skin test and will also be offered vaccination. Staff at the school will have chest X-rays.

Smugglers' tales dog veteran car sale

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

AS A 1903 Mercedes two-seater sporting tourist broke the record for veteran cars at Brooks auctioneers in London, there were claims that the other star of the auction - a vehicle shaped like a swan - had been smuggled out of India in a carner.

Indian newspapers are reporting that four people, including a Belgian antique dealer, have been arrested in Bombay for allegedly smuggling four vehicles out of the country, including the swan car.

Conceived by an eccentric Scots engineer, Scotty Mathewson, and with a "beak" designed to spray boiling water on irksome pedestrians, the 1912 car more than justified its vendors' expectations, soaring above its £100,000 estimate to £187,000.

As the vehicle entered

Britain with correct paperwork, Robert Brooks, the auctioneer, has no fears of claims by the Indian authorities. "It cleared UK customs in the correct way," he said.

Unfortunately for the smugglers, however, it was the paperwork on the Indian side which created the problem. According to reports, faked

papers claimed that the vehicles, which included 1912 and 1940 Rolls-Royces, were dated from 1961 to 1965 and were made locally.

The 1903 Mercedes, called the Sixty, is capable of around 83 mph and established its makers as an international race winner. It was sold to an anonymous British buyer for

£1.56 million, boosting the confidence of a market which has recently been in the doldrums.

Another car which goes up for sale later in the year, for an expected £2 million, and which is due to lead a parade of historic vehicles around Silverstone before the British Grand Prix on Sunday, suffered a slight dent yesterday - but only in its reputation (Kevin Easton writes).

The auctioneers Coys of Kensington put on show the Tipo B Monoposto, known as the P3, and billed it as the winner of the first British Grand Prix. But it emerged that the Alfa was winner of the third in the historic pre-war series, when Dick Shuttleworth notched up an average speed of 63.97 mph in 1935. Douglas Jamieson of Coys said: "That was a mistake on our part. We did not research that ourselves."



Golden oldie: the 1903 Mercedes sold for £1.56m

Bird world's punk rocker shuns big-city life

By CRAIG SETON

THE starling, one of Britain's most common birds, appears to be in rapid decline. The bird is dwindling in numbers in towns and country and an annual survey in Birmingham that two decades ago found a city centre population of 30,000 has this year found only 64.

The mystery of Birmingham's missing starlings has worried members of the West Midlands Bird Club, whose survey, begun in the 1960s, has produced the lowest figure ever for the number of starlings roosting on once-crowded ledges and parapets. The total is a big reduction on last year's figure of 2,000 birds.

Club members have been speculating about the decline demonstrated by the survey, which was conducted

in February when the number of native starlings would usually be swelled by winter visitors from the Continent. They believe that modern buildings may not provide suitable roosts for the bird, and that anti-starling measures on older buildings might have also helped to drive them out.

They also fear that modern farming techniques are depriving starlings of food in the country during the breeding season, and have even considered the possibility that nuclear fall-out from the Chernobyl disaster could have hit the migration of starlings from eastern Europe.

The decline in the population of the noisy, raucous, squabbling bird has been confirmed by the British Trust for Ornithology. The trust says that more efficient farming means

that crane fly grubs, on which fledglings are raised, are in much shorter supply.

The trust's estimate of Britain's starling population shows that it has fallen by half in ten years in woodland locations and by at least a quarter on farmland. Fifteen years ago the population was thought to be between four and seven million pairs, but that is now believed to be down to between three and five million and still falling.

Starlings leave the countryside after the summer to find winter roosts in towns and cities, where it is warmer and more food is available. Alan Richards, chairman of the West Midlands Bird Club, said yesterday: "They're regarded as the punk rockers of the bird world and people think they are unattractive, but the sight of

dozens of them wheeling across the city at sunset is dramatic. If we do not know the cause for the decline, we worry whether there is some insidious cause. If our next survey reveals there are no starlings to be found in Birmingham, we would be concerned."

Chris Mead, who is in charge of the national bird-ringing scheme for the British Trust for Ornithology, said that although the evidence showed a big decline in the number of starlings in Britain, the Birmingham city centre birds had probably moved to another location.

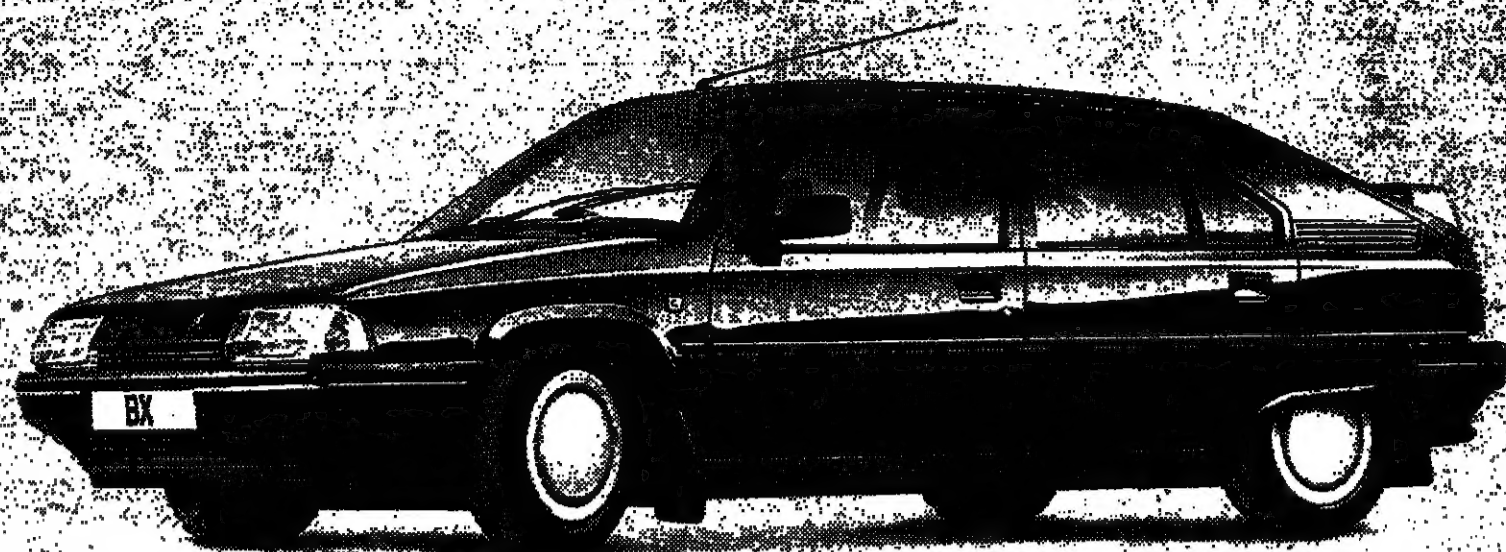
"There are still flocks of starlings on buildings in London and other towns," he said. "It's still one of our commonest birds, so we're not talking about extinction. They're very adaptable."

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الاصالة

How legal oversight made couple's home contested territory

TREVOR and Marius Reed could have been forgiven for thinking that it was part of a practical joke by the television programme *Beecroft's About*, but a knock on their door one winter afternoon in 1988 was to bring few laughs.

The Reeds had become victims of a solicitor's error, leading to years of litigation and anxiety as they strove to prove that they alone were the rightful owners and occupants of their Canvey Island home and to seek compensation for the error.

"There were two men at the door, a tough-looking chap, and they asked me what I was doing in their house," Mrs Reed, aged 31, said, recalling the day she and her husband found that their conveyancing solicitor at Walter G & S Beecroft had failed to notice there were two charges on the house. "They said it was their house, or at least half of it was. I thought they were con men."

Within days, it became clear that the men, brothers released from prison, were

An ownership dispute that got out of hand. Jamie Dettmer continues a study of solicitors whose clients become victims

claiming an interest in Clowd Cottage, which the Reeds had bought for £27,500 five years earlier. The Reeds claim that it was at this stage that they learnt that Beecroft had also acted for the seller of Clowd Cottage. Later, the Reeds discovered that the house had been bought and sold once before with one law firm acting for both sides. "On both occasions, the sale should have been prevented, and almost certainly would have been, had different solicitors been used," Mr Reed, a computer trainer, said.

Heavily in debt after renovating and improving Clowd Cottage in readiness

for starting a family, the Reeds went to see Beecroft about the claim that someone else might have an interest in the house. "We thought their attitude was too relaxed," Mr Reed said. "When we walked out of there, we decided we must go and see someone else."

Mr Reed, aged 34, was refused legal aid on financial grounds, despite debts of £7,000 on a loan for home improvements. "We thought it was our house and most of our money went into improving it, and all of a sudden we could lose it," he said.

The Reeds went to another firm of solicitors, which managed to remove one of the charges on the property. A barrister was instructed to draft a claim against Beecroft for negligence. However, this law firm was taken over by another, and the Reeds felt that they were not receiving the support they needed. "I was passed from pillar to post," Mr Reed said.

In spring 1989, Mrs Reed gave birth to a son, but had to go back to work after six



Problem purchase: Trevor and Marius Reed at the home that strangers claimed after the couple had bought it

months because of legal fees. During litigation, the senior partner at Beecroft died and the firm was taken over, renaming itself Beecrofts. The managing clerk who dealt with the Reeds' conveyancing still works at Beecrofts.

The Reeds shifted solicitors again, moving to the London firm of Wedlake Bell.

Last December, the High Court removed the remaining charge on the property, making clear that the brothers had no claim to half of it and that they should proceed against executors of their mother's estate, if anyone.

Negligence proceedings have been started against Beecroft and the estate of Donald Beecroft. The Reeds

seek damages for distress and inconvenience, legal costs and extra interest incurred because they could not remortgage the house with two charges hanging over it. Mr Beecroft's insurers have paid the Reeds' legal costs up to and including the High Court action.

Initially, Beecrofts declined to comment. However,

later, John Humphries, its managing clerk, said that the matter was "just an unfortunate set of circumstances". He said: "Instead of staying with us, the Reeds went to another firm of solicitors. Because of that the costs escalated." He admitted that Beecroft had acted for both sides in the Reeds' purchase.

"It is not unusual," he said.

Solicitor may have absconded to Greece

LAW Society investigators want to trace a Hertfordshire solicitor who is believed to have absconded to Greece in April with more than £250,000 of clients' money.

Peter Turner, who ran a one-man practice in Harpenden, is thought to be investing in Greek property, and is suspected of using some of his clients' money to make personal investments in up to 25 British companies. His Rolls-Royce is also missing. Problems with the practice emerged when a routine check of Mr Turner's books by the Law Society disclosed that he had failed to complete several transactions on behalf of his clients. In May, agents for the society secured a High Court order to search his home in Hemel Hempstead. They seized records, and the Hertfordshire fraud squad was called in. He has not been seen for three months.

Most of the money he is suspected of misusing comes from conveyancing cheques and sums lodged with him by clients before being invested. Several of Mr Turner's clients are believed to have had to default on house purchases.

Three Graces may find home in UK museum

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE company that owns Canova's *The Three Graces* is prepared to sell the controversial neo-classical statue to the Barclay brothers, the British hotel and property investors.

The breakthrough could mean that the statue, the subject of one of the biggest heritage furores of the decade,

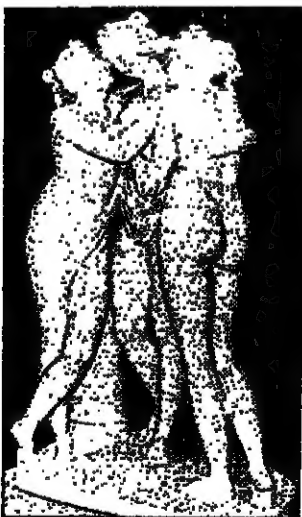
will soon be permanently on show in a British museum if the parties concerned can agree a price. The market has dropped since the last valuation of £7.6 million.

Luc Hafner, the Swiss solicitor representing Fine Art Investment and Display, the Cayman Island company that owns the statue, confirmed yesterday that after the decision of the lobbying group SAVE Britain's Heritage to drop legal proceedings against the government over the statue, he is trying to get in touch with David and Frederick Barclay to see if their offer is "still serious".

The development comes after a deal between the Treasury Solicitor and SAVE, under which the group drops judicial review proceedings against the government over the statue's listed building status, and the Treasury pays SAVE's legal fees.

SAVE had insisted that removal of the statue from Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, where it had been based for 160 years, broke the listed buildings law. Chris Patten, then environment minister, decided in 1989 that while the statue came under the listing, it was also a chattel and therefore capable of being legally removed.

Meanwhile, an outcry over the prospect of the statue leaving the country induced Nicholas Ridley, then industry secretary, to place a long-term export ban on the statue.



The Three Graces, subject of a heritage furor

Scottish newspaper closes

THE *Sunday Scot*, launched in March by David Murray, the Glasgow Rangers football club owner, has closed after failing to reach its 250,000 circulation target (Melinda Wintstock writes).

Sales of the newspaper, which set out to break the Scottish tabloid duopoly of D C Thomson's *Sunday Post* and the Mirror Group's *Sunday Mail*, had sunk to 70,000.

Murray International Holdings said: "A poor advertising campaign at the launch and the poor quality of the first few editions failed to swing readers from their traditional Sunday papers."

Soldier jailed

A soldier disillusioned with army life was jailed for five years after admitting threatening to kill and using a firearm to resist arrest. Teesside crown court was told that Wayne Lawn, aged 20, of Preston, was shot in the legs by an officer when he broke out of a cell at Catterick barracks and ran towards a playground with a loaded rifle.

Pier show row

The actor Les Saxon, who lives in Poole, Dorset, called on Bournemouth council to cancel its pier show *Minstrels Down Lambeth Way*. He says it is offensive and racist.

Raleigh sale

A document signed by Sir Walter Raleigh, dated 1602, was auctioned at Nottingham for £1,265.

20mph limit

Britain's first 20mph speed limit is to be introduced in Horsham, West Sussex.

Van Gogh to have field-sized tribute

By KERRY GILL

SPACE satellites and passengers of low-flying aircraft will witness a unique sight as they fly over the Scottish Borders from the middle of next month: a 46,000-sq-ft reproduction of one of Vincent van Gogh's *Sunflowers* paintings.

A wheatfield whose position will remain secret until the flowers bloom has been prepared with 250,000 plants. Marigolds have been used as sunflowers would suffer from the vagaries of the borders' winds, according to Andrew Scott, the horticulturalist who thought of the idea to help to promote the country's bedding plant industry. He hopes

that what is thought to be the largest reproduction of a painting ever undertaken will bloom successfully enough to be identified from space satellites.

The field was prepared with the help of more than 30 other Scottish growers, and the marigolds will begin to flower in time to celebrate the 101st anniversary of Van Gogh's death. Mr Scott said he was obsessed with the painting and decided to recreate it with plants. But he needed a whole wheatfield "so that the colour of the ripe wheat could form the frame as well as reflecting the final torment of Van Gogh's life".

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Playing by ear: staff on the Roland Keyboards stand at the International Music Show at Olympia, west London, testing headphones used for live keyboard demonstrations at the five-day exhibition, which closes on Sunday

Flat leaseholders poised to win right to buy freeholds

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

AROUND 1.5 million leaseholders of flats, many of them in London, will have the right to buy their freehold under proposals to be presented by the government today for a "commonhold" system of ownership.

Iniquity rooted in feudal times

By LIN JENKINS

WHEN Mike Scott tried to extend the lease on the London flat that he loved and proposed to secure his home, he was bemused to discover that the law entitled landlords to act as a modern-day Dick Turpin.

Like many people, he had assumed that owning the leasehold gave him certain rights over his home. He found, however, that the owner of the freehold in the property had no obligation to sell an extension to the lease. Mr Scott learnt from neighbours that the landlord would be willing to give a 50-year extension for about £70,000, but he reckoned: "At the age of 57, with 40 years [of lease] to go, I was likely to die before that, so why should I be wasting my money on extending the lease?"

Although the lease had been bought from the previous leaseholder with those 40 years left, Mr Scott's outrage at the plight of others less securely placed led him to found the Commonhold Flats Campaign.

The iniquitous position of leaseholders is rooted in the feudal system of the country-

side by which leasehold and freehold prevailed, along with a strict social structure. There seemed no alternative when shared blocks and other shared dwellings with an element of ownership appeared on the city skyline.

Since flats were so new, the problem has only come to light in recent years. Maurice Hickman, aged 78, and his wife, Lena, 72, joined the campaign when the shortening length of their lease suggested that they might end their days without a home. They had 12 years left on their flat at Folkestone, Kent, when the freeholder refused to consider a request for extension, although leaseholders are the ones who pay for the upkeep of their home. They spoke to local councillors and petitioned their MP on the matter, but still their request received the reply that an extension was not for sale.

In some mansion blocks, the problem has been compounded by freeholders' neglect of the buildings. Mr Scott said: "It is not until things go wrong that the leaseholder realises he owns nothing more than a cube of time."

to maintain properties.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will propose the radical package in the Lords after considering comments made since he announced his intentions last November. It is proposed that leaseholders will be able to buy the freehold of the properties, many of them London mansion blocks, at market value if a clear majority of residents agree.

While leaseholders applauded the proposals, there was criticism. The Grosvenor Estate, owned by the Duke of Westminster, said it was disappointed that it had been advocating the introduction of commonhold on a gradual voluntary basis to give flat dwellers more choice.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has supported the general proposal, but strongly opposes any suggestion of compulsion. Gerry Fox, institution spokesman, said: "It is illusory to believe that commonhold will reduce service charges, and commonhold will also create new problems. It is not hard, for instance, to envisage how an unco-operative few could make a commonhold association unworkable."

Under the proposals it is expected that holders of leases of over 21 years will have the right to buy, and that the owners will be compelled to sell their freehold interest at market value if a clear majority of the leaseholders, perhaps 75 per cent, vote for it. It is likely to be suggested that leaseholders are offered for sale at market price, and the question of whether landlords should be compelled to sell is expected to be one of the most controversial parts of the package.

Appeal to bank as pigs face slaughter

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the largest surviving herd of Gloucester Old Spots, one of seven breeds of rare pigs, could face slaughter in the next month unless its owner can persuade his bank to relax its overdraft terms.

Charles Russell, of Little Orchard Farm, Hope Bagot, Shropshire, has told the National Westminster Bank that 70 of his 100 breeding sows might have to go.

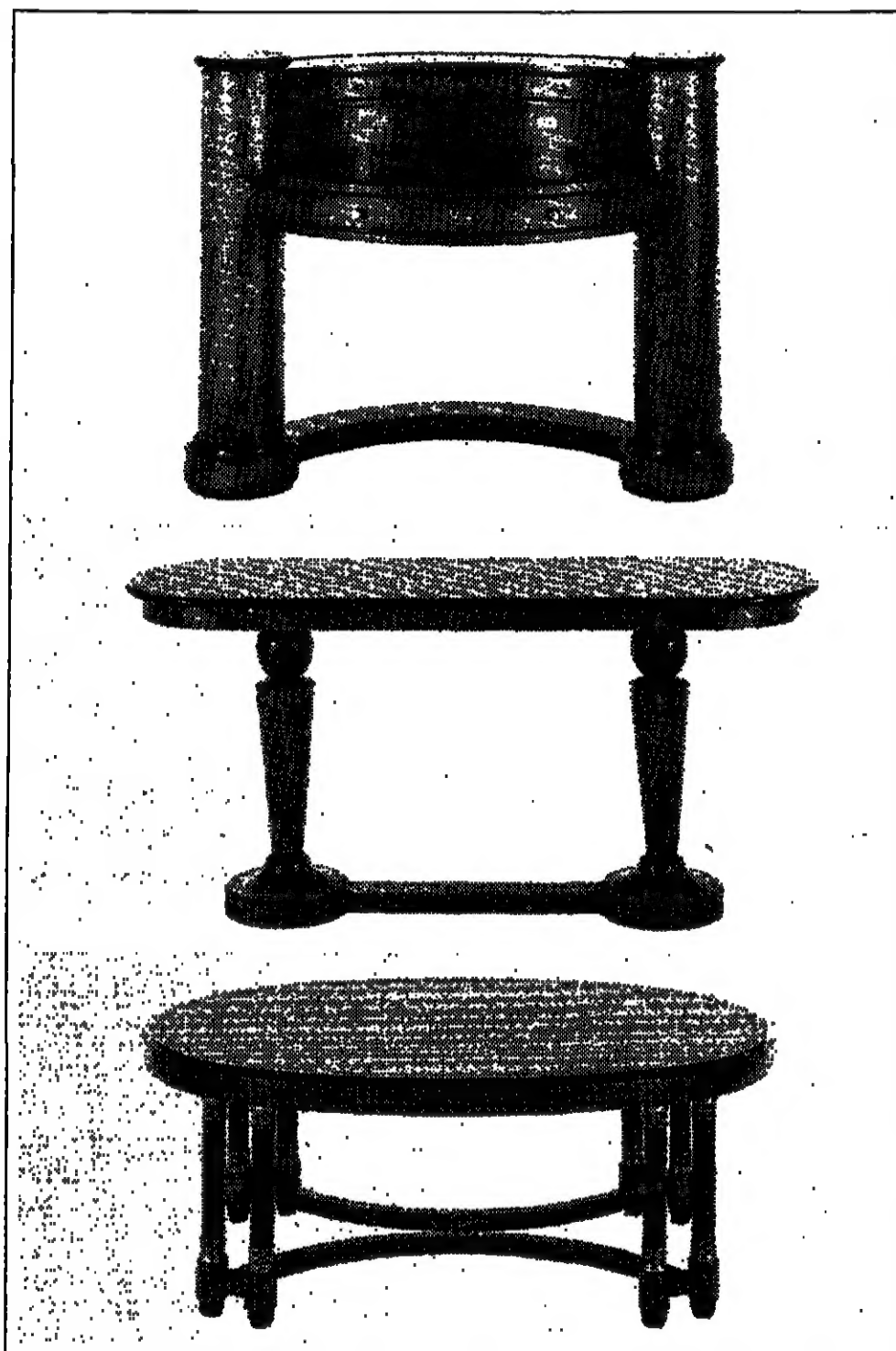
The fate of the pigs has hung in the balance since the bank refused six months ago to raise Mr Russell's overdraft from £30,000 to £40,000 when he was in the middle of an expansion programme and needed the money to meet extra feed and labour costs and for new pig shelters and concrete pathways.

Such was the response from sympathisers, among them the Prince of Wales, who donated money for the building of a visitor centre, that the slaying of the herd was postponed. A limited company, Hornes Rare Breeds, was set up last month, with 20 members of the public as shareholders, to fund and market the pigs.

"The problem is that earnings from sale of the pigs to the company are now being taken by the bank to pay off the overdraft and I cannot continue like that," Mr Russell said. "Unless the bank changes its attitude or more people invest in the company I will have to slaughter the pigs to raise funds."

His free-range, organically-reared herd includes all 15 remaining female bloodlines and accounts for 20 per cent of the national breeding stock of the "orchard pig", so called because of its ability to live off fallen fruit. The bank does not think the herd's commercial prospects warrant extending Mr Russell's credit further.

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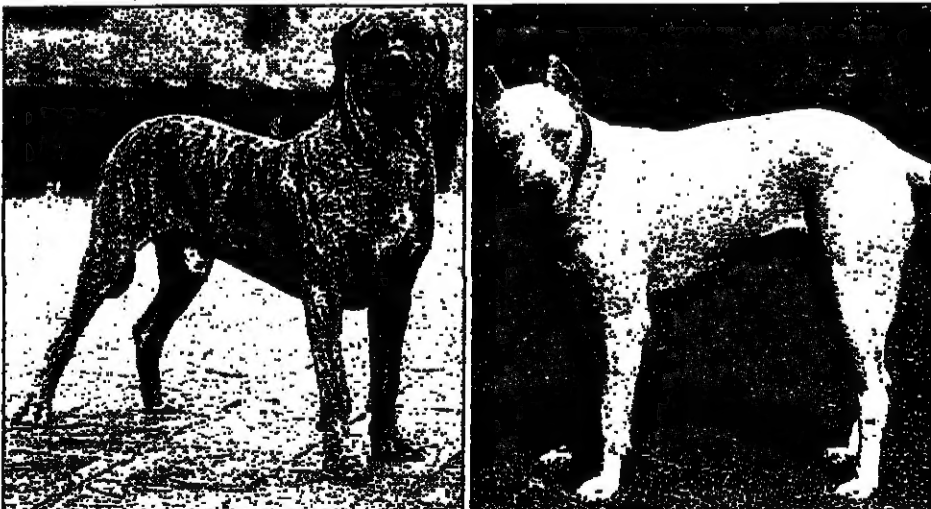
Bill Frost traces the violent ancestry of the dogo argentino and fila brasileiro, the latest dogs to face a banning order from Britain

THE dogo argentino and fila brasileiro, the latest breeds earmarked for a banning order under the dangerous dogs bill, have fearsome reputations for strength and fighting prowess.

The dogo, weighing more than 100lb, was used by ranchers in its native South America to hunt pumas, jaguars and other big cats preying on cattle. The fila brasileiro, also a canine heavyweight, was bred to track down runaway slaves. Inevitably, the dogs were used for fighting.

Both breeds were outlawed in Holland earlier this year after a spate of unprovoked attacks against children and adults.

The Dutch authorities had also noted that the South American fighting dogs were becoming increasingly popular with drug dealers who would set them on police and rival pushers. The animals were used frequently in illegal dog fights where large



South American heavyweights: the fila brasileiro (left) and the dogo argentino

sums of money changed hands.

Dogo argentino, nicknamed the Argie mastiff, was bred by Dr Antonio Norez Martinez 70 years ago. The root stock for his lethal recipe was the Cordoba fighting dog from Spain. The *Atlas of Dog Breeds of the World* says: "The Cordobas were only interested in one thing - fighting; they were so vicious, a male would attack bitches during the mating ritual."

Other ingredients which helped to make up the dogo were the great dane, the English pointer, the Pyrenean mountain dog and the

Irish wolfhound. Dr Martinez described the dogo as "a trustworthy family dog which is also a worthy opponent for the puma and the jaguar."

In the wrong hands the trustworthy pet became a ruthless killing machine. As the *Atlas* put it: "They are true dogs of the heart, showing no hesitancy... they are ready to attack."

The fila brasileiro is every inch as lethal. Its ancestors were brought to Brazil by Portuguese conquistadores in the 16th century. Three hundred years later a breeder mixed in mastiff and bloodhound. The fila, then recast

as a scenthound, was used to find escaped slaves, but because of its ferocity few survived recapture.

Dog-show judges in Brazil are warned not to touch the fila "if they wish to keep their fingers, since owners often encourage aggression".

The *Atlas* says: "This breed needs a home that understands and needs a dog that will not be friendly with strangers... they should not attack viciously for no reason." But a spokesman for the Dutch foreign ministry said of those who keep filas: "They have not been good owners. The dogs were used in all the wrong ways."

Foreign firms may be allowed to run trains on UK track

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

FOREIGN companies will be able to run railways in Britain after privatisation, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, indicated in the Commons last night.

He was speaking during second reading of a bill to extend the borrowing limit of British Rail during which he brushed aside reservations among some MPs about the practicalities of privatisation.

Challenged on his feelings if SNCF, the French national railway, asked to run trains on British track, he said: "If we hope for the opportunity for British operators to operate in other European countries, the reverse will also have to apply so the policy can be taken forward."

John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said that it

was not necessary to privatise to attract private investment in the railways.

But Mr Rifkind, proclaiming a growing trend in favour of privatisation, said that the Japanese already shared Britain's view. The Dutch were considering it and the Germans thought it might be necessary.

He hailed as "historic" an agreement in principle by the European Community to give the right of access to international operators. It was in tune with the British approach of "opening the monopoly as soon as possible".

Mr Rifkind said that he had been heartened in the past few weeks by many approaches

from companies around Britain interested in considering how to use the railways. He said: "We will be having a seminar in the very near future to which we have invited those who have an industrial interest in the possible use of rail to explore ways of taking these matters forward."

Despite the £40 million losses recently announced by British Rail, he said that it was encouraging that InterCity and Bulk Freight had demonstrated their capacity to make a profit.

Mr Prescott said that at the heart of the argument was that the Commons should make up its mind what it wanted to do with the railways.

Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) said that that was important, because if they could get a consensus on railway policy and long-term planning, they might be able to take politics out of the railways.

Mr Prescott said that the argument was about how they dealt with the system, with the development of the public service obligation, in the Seventies they had begun to identify two sides of the railway, the social and the profitable.

He was not limited in his ideas about the future finance of the system after talking recently to the bus industry. The government could play a part. They could argue about whether the railways should be public or private, but access to the market was conditioned by that.

Mr Rifkind asked whether he was saying that he would change the rules so that the whole of the public sector would be allowed access to private sector money (which would be more expensive) and that levels of investment would still be comparable to those at present, or that access would be allowed both to private money and the national loans fund.

Mr Prescott said that Mr Rifkind should consider a whole new financial market for the railway system.

The bill, which increases the limit of British Rail's borrowing to £3,000 million, was being rushed through all stages in the Commons.



The Four Graces: Robert Atkins, the sports minister, with three young assistants, launching the schools aerobics championships at Abingdon Green, near the House of Commons, yesterday

Kaufman switch criticised

THE Labour party was accused yesterday of changing its defence policy to protect itself and not the country. Labour MPs protested during Commons question time as the prime minister used questions by his own backbenchers to deny the way Gerald Kaufman, Labour foreign affairs spokesman, had shifted Labour policy another step away from nuclear unilateralism in an article.

When it was said that Labour defence policy had changed, however, several Labour MPs shouted denial. But John Major's parting shot was that the electorate remained aware of Labour's unilateralist tendency.

The matter was raised first by Sir John Farr (Harborough, C), who was at first cheered from both sides on his return after an illness, but the cheers changed to protests from Labour MPs when they realised that he was discussing their defence policy.

He urged the prime minister to look at a "recent Labour announcement" that the party was going to keep the deterrent.

Ridley 'reeking of bile' feels Lawson lash

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE rival historians of the Thatcher era fell out again yesterday.

Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, alleged that Nicholas Ridley's new book was "riddled with errors and reeking of bile". Describing Mr Ridley as his "former friend and cabinet colleague", Mr Lawson accused him of losing all sense of objectivity. He had written a work of hagiography.

Mr Lawson, who is penning his own memoirs but spending rather longer over it than Mr Ridley, used a two-page review in *The Spectator* — edited by Dominic Lawson, his son — to slate his old chief's efforts and repeat his view that Margaret Thatcher's own flaws had brought about her downfall as prime minister. He disclosed how the mood in the government changed for the worse after 1987, perhaps because of the departure of the "irreplaceable" William Whitelaw.

He castigates the alleged mistakes in *My Style of Government: The Thatcher Years* and writes of Mr Ridley's "carelessness with the facts".

The former trade and industry secretary had written "the story of Margaret, saint, miracle-worker and martyr — and how she was betrayed by the Judases she brought to her table. How every success was hers alone; every failure that of her colleagues."

Warning to his task, Mr Lawson says that there was no substance whatever in Mr Ridley's astonishing charge that he and Sir Geoffrey Howe became "out of sympathy with major elements of her government's aims and were actively working against her."

He says: "The only issue Mr Ridley can conceivably

have in mind was policy over the exchange rate, where his conclusion is based on a wholly false assumption about both the declared policy of the government and the way in which economic policy was carried out in practice throughout most of the Thatcher years."

Mr Lawson continues: "Perhaps I am a political innocent; for although there were certainly all too many leaks, I was wholly unaware over more than a decade as one of her ministers that her colleagues were constantly plotting and conspiring and attempting to 'destabilise' Margaret Thatcher."

"Nor do I believe that they were. But what is clear is that, somewhere along the way, perhaps after the departure of the irreplaceable Willie Whitelaw at the end of 1987, the mood changed. The great adventure on which we had all

embarked in 1979 to rescue Britain from economic and political decline by charting a radically new way forward and having the courage to see it through, had led in some quarters, it seems, to a bunker mentality."

Norman Tebbit, Norman Fowler, Lord Whitelaw and Lord Young of Graffham have already shed some light on the Thatcher years in their books. Cecil Parkinson is preparing his version of events. Mr Lawson's is keenly awaited at Westminster.

When it appears, Mr Ridley will no doubt take his revenge. But will he use the pages of *The Spectator* to review Mr Lawson? That would seem unlikely. His last appearance in the pages of the journal — his ill-fated interview with Dominic Lawson in which he alleged that the Genovese were trying to take over Europe — led to his enforced departure from the government.



Major attacks London councils

John Major blamed Labour councils in inner London and the defunct Inner London Education Authority yesterday for destroying job opportunities for young people in the capital.

Questioned by Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, Lib Dem), the prime minister said that he hoped to visit south London soon. He criticised the education policies pursued in the past and said that jobs had been lost because Labour councils had put up business rates and driven firms away.

New pay row side-stepped

The prime minister sought to steer clear of the latest row surrounding pay rises for privatised industry chairman. Questioned about the rise of 181 per cent awarded to Bryan Westwood, chairman of Manxair, John Major said: "It is a matter for the companies and not for me". But, he said, pay awards should "reflect what is reasonable".

Spirits raised

Publicans in Northern Ireland are to be allowed to serve spirits in measures of 35ml in addition to the normal British measure of 25ml, Richard Needham, Northern Ireland under secretary, announced at question time.

Punters' view

Ladbrokes, the bookmakers, have made Labour 8/11 favourites to win the next election. The Conservatives are quoted at even odds and the Liberal Democrats at 100/1. May, at 2/1, is the favourite date for the election, although money is now going on November and is quoted at 11/4. June is third favourite at 4/1.

Dock review

The employment and transport departments have commissioned a wide-ranging research project into the effects of the abolition of the dock labour scheme. Eric Forth, an employment minister, said in a written reply. The study will take about fifteen months and cost about £140,000. It will assess the economic and social consequences of abolition.

Tank contract

The contract for about 130 Challenger 2 tanks has been placed with Vickers, Alan Clark, defence procurement minister, said in a written reply. His statement comes after the government's decision last month to select the vehicle as the army's main battle tank, against strong overseas competition.



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Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Finance bill, progress on remaining stages.
Tuesday: Finance bill, conclusion of remaining stages. Criminal justice bill, Lords amendments.

Wednesday: Debate on Plaid Cymru motion on the structure of government in Wales.
Thursday: Child support bill, remaining stages.

Friday: Debate on schools. The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: School teachers' pay and conditions bill, report.
Tuesday: Export and investment guarantees bill, committee continued.

Wednesday: Local government (finance and valuation) bill, report.

Thursday: Dangerous dogs bill, report. Ports bill and Atomic Weapons Establishment bill, third readings.

Friday: Finance bill, all stages.

Recess date for both Houses

Both Houses of Parliament will rise for the summer recess on Thursday July 25 and return on Monday October 14.

Business in Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on the environment.
Lords (11): Motion on student loans.

Lib Dems put electoral reform at the centre

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats sought to steal a march on their political opponents yesterday by making electoral reform a key plank of their proposals for a citizens' charter.

On the day that the cabinet discussed John Major's scheme to revolutionise service standards in the public sector by giving new rights to consumers, the centre party unveiled "citizens' Britain", its blueprint for a "people's charter".

Labour has already tried to pre-empt the prime minister's initiative by releasing its own version of the charter. Yesterday's announcement by the Liberal Democrats means that all three parties are fighting over much the same ground.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, tried to give a distinctive flavour to his party's approach by accusing his rivals of ignoring the political dimension in their efforts to strengthen the hand of individuals in their dealings with the state.

"I welcome the fact that citizenship is now on the political agenda. But the other parties' proposals do not meet our radical agenda. They are pale imitations of what is required because they confuse consumerism with citizenship," he said.

"Our proposals give people



Ashdown: proposals give people real power

real power over the government and over the way they conduct their lives. Political power and social power combine to ensure consumer power."

Meanwhile, government sources denied reports that the prime minister's quest for a citizens' charter had become bogged down in inter-departmental wrangling over the extent of the shake-up. As Francis Maude, the Treasury minister co-ordinating the op-

eration, gave the cabinet a progress report, the sources indicated that a "large amount" of the charter was now in place, although some of the items were still unresolved.

The Liberal Democrat document said that there was a broad consensus among the political parties on consumer rights. Any list would have to include rights to access, to information, redress, representation, equity, safety and value for money. The point at issue was the will to put those principles to work and the extent to which they should be applied.

Political citizenship was just as important as social citizenship and economic citizenship. It meant at national level a fair voting system based on proportional representation, a bill of rights as part of a written constitution, devolution of power from the centre, freedom of information and a team of ombudsmen scrutinising government departments and reporting to a select committee of MPs.

"By supporting an outdated, undemocratic electoral system, Conservatives and Labour deny thousands of their own voters the first right of citizenship — equal participation in choosing the government," the party's document said.

G7 summit meeting

Media spotlight will fall on Major's role at centre stage

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

It is a fortuitous stroke for John Major that Britain should be the host country for the G7 summit of leading industrialised nations next week. Playing the world statesman on home ground gives him a rare chance to develop authority in an election year.

The prime minister is known for his resistance to name-making. But there is an almost audible smacking of the Tory party as party strategists contemplate the rich set of photo opportunities ahead at the group therapy session with heads of state and government from the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy and Canada.

By the year the media circus is alone to all the rings it can lead. Margaret Thatcher never led to make the best of her summit opportunities, notably those at Williamsburg in 1983, and at Venice in 1987. Mr Major, who has done well at his two European summits so far, will gain confidence from hosting the Seven, let alone the summit, to follow with Mikhail Gorbachev.

The difficulty he faces is that Margaret Thatcher set her last few G7s as the experienced summitter. While other debuts were feeling their way, she knew how to get results, and most of the time in the years had an experienced chancellor and foreign secretary with her, too. British critics set out before the summit, on countering terrorism, preventing the laundering of drug money or recycling third world debt, were regularly achieved. This time only Douglas Hurd, on the British side, has attended a summit before in the same role.

But ever since Giscard d'Estaing invented the summits at Rambouillet in 1975 there has been an unwritten code about these things. Those present normally ensure that the host country is allowed to score a point or two in the final communiqué. That, of course, has already been drafted by the sherpas, with only the dependent clauses to be settled in the chat beneath the mirrors of Lancaster House.

Mr Major, at his best in small gatherings and a meticulous preparer, said yesterday that he expected no ambushes at the G7. Just to make sure, he will have bilateral meetings on Sunday before Monday's official start with George Bush, with Toshiki Kaifu of Japan, Giulio Andreotti of Italy and Canada's Brian Mulroney.

The first British objective has been met already in the agreements hammered out by the sherpas. There will be no big cash handout for President Gorbachev and the meeting with the Soviet leader will be kept strictly separate from the summit proper.

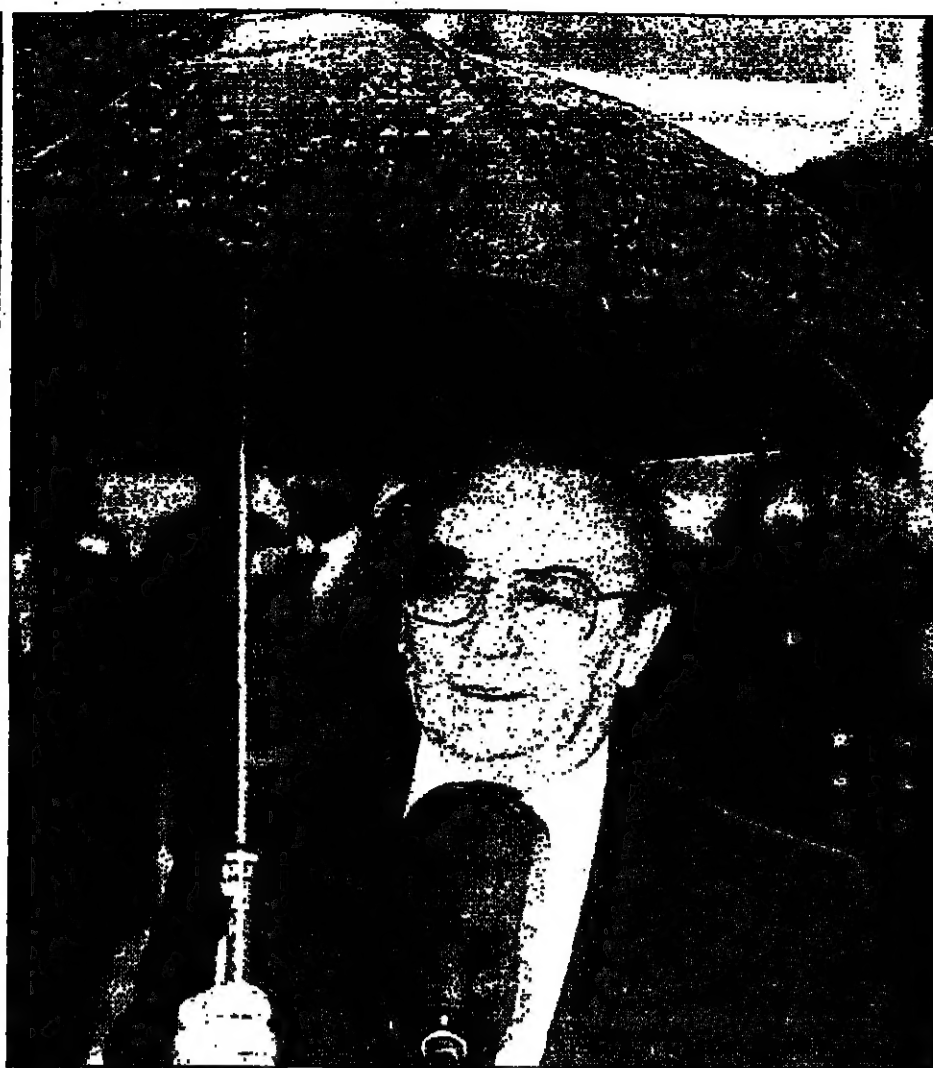
Mr Major is looking for an agreement to register and limit arms supplies in excess of countries' strictly defensive requirements, with a view to curbing the ambitions of future Saddam Husseins.

Wary of the years of discussion about cutting agricultural subsidies which seem

to lead nowhere, he is looking to give a stimulus to the Uruguay round of the GATT trade talks, something last year's Houston summit signally failed to do despite much huffing and puffing on the subject. And he and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, are looking to achieve the "Trinidad terms" formula to improve debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

British negotiators accept they will do well to achieve two out of three of their objectives. The French and Germans remain sticky about agricultural subsidies and a GATT deal, the Americans are none too keen on the debt relief package and President Mitterrand has his own arms control plan which may make him reluctant to bless Mr Major's arms register scheme.

G7 report, page 1
World circus, page 14



Last chapter: Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, Soviet foreign minister, arriving in the US for talks aimed at finalising a nuclear arms treaty prior to a superpower summit

Gorbachev letter raises US hopes on nuclear treaty

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

SOVIET and American officials were guardedly optimistic yesterday that a fresh attempt in Washington to resolve arcane differences over a strategic nuclear arms treaty would bring about a superpower summit in Moscow by the end of the month.

Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, handed President Bush a letter from President Gorbachev outlining compromises that negotiators hoped would help end three technical disputes holding up an agreement after almost ten years of talks.

The letter boosted American optimism that Mr Bessmertnykh and other key Soviet officials had come to the United States, at Mr Bush's request, with approval from the Kremlin to authorise new positions.

Mr Bush has said he is unwilling to hold a summit without at least an agreement in principle on a strategic arms reduction treaty (START). But he is also keen to have a reason to meet at length with Mr Gorbachev to discuss a range of other issues, including the Soviet leader's commitment to democratic reform, post-war strategy in the Gulf and ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union.

Mr Gorbachev, meanwhile, wants to wrap up a treaty to prove to the West his commitment to reform before he addresses Mr Bush and the leaders of Britain, Germany, Japan, Canada, France and Italy next week at the G7 summit in London.

Mr Bessmertnykh also met James Baker, the US Secretary of State. American officials interpreted as a good sign the fact that the Soviet foreign minister was accompanied by Mikhail Moiseyev, Mr Gorbachev's leading military official. The general is expected to be able to approve instantly any compromises worked out by Mr Baker and Mr Bessmertnykh.

Kaifu looking to Bush as saviour

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

HIKI Kaifu, the Japanese minister, arrived at the White House yesterday for his sixth visit to the United States in two years. The aim, said administration officials, was to prepare for next week's G7 summit in London, to agree Gulf war payments, and, most importantly, to Mr Kaifu himself.

Mr Bush makes much of his personal relationship "my friend Toshiki", but as not yet made a reciprocal visit to Japan — an action beginning to arouse diplomatic sensitivities. The invitation to the summit's Kennebunkport site came at a time when White House recognises Mr Kaifu's job is on the line. His respectability abroad is to be all that protects him from ceremonial execution by party bosses back home, as one aide put it.

Both sides want to settle much Japan should pay Operation Desert Storm. Kaifu brought with him \$100 million (£308 million) to the Gulf Peace Fund to help pay for exchange rates as incurred between the ring of Tokyo's \$9 billion treasury and their delivery in the war was over. America had been also

demanding a further \$700 million to make up for money paid by Japan to other coalition powers, including Britain, which the US Treasury thought it should have. It appeared yesterday that Mr Bush would probably forgo this sum in order to sweeten the atmosphere for winning Japanese aid on delicate trade issues next week.

Top of the US agenda is the need for Japan to make even a token opening to imports in its domestic rice market. Without this, trade officials say there is much less prospect of budging the EC agricultural producers from their own protectionist strongholds.



Kaifu: invitation helped defuse troubles at home

Cossiga dismisses bomb plot report

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN ROME

PRESIDENT Cossiga said yesterday he was unaware of a bomb threat against him in a visit to Budapest last weekend, despite an Italian interior ministry report earlier that Hungarian police had a bomb attack against him in Budapest, senior officials in charge of government security said the Italian report of a bomb threat was unfounded.

Italian interior ministry and security reports said that a Hungarian police discovered a bomb near a cemetery minutes before Signor Cossiga was to pay homage at the graves of victims of the 1956 Hungarian uprising. The ministry ordered the Italian security forces travelling with Signor Cossiga that they had reason to believe an attempt was being made on the president's life. Signor Cossiga said he knew nothing about such a plot, but 11 reporters that the Hungarian police did ask that he

not visit the cemetery as planned. The cemetery visit finally proceeded after Hungarian security men and bomb experts searched the area, the Italian ministry said. Neither the interior ministry nor Italian press reports of the alleged plot said who was behind it.

Signor Cossiga said he was waiting for the results of investigations. He said: "I think it was perhaps a gesture of demonstration, because generally in modern societies, when there is an attack, it succeeds." He said however that he was certain the Hungarian police "had reasons for asking me not to go to the place where we did go".

It was the second time in less than a month that the Hungarian authorities have dismissed reports of an attempted attack on a visiting head of state. Last month they rejected press reports that Hungarian police had failed a plot attempt against Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

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Serbs weigh gains and losses as leaders prepare to redraw map of Yugoslavia

Slovenes fear Belgrade has won fight for EC sympathy

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN LJUBLJANA

MILAN Kucan, the Slovene president, yesterday claimed that the terms of the ceasefire with Yugoslav federal troops were being flouted by Belgrade's failure to allow European Community monitors to enter Slovenia.

He claimed that the advance party of ten observers who have been awaited since Wednesday were being held up by the federal authorities. The team has visited Belgrade and the Croatian capital, Zagreb, but its journey to Ljubljana has been postponed twice.

The Yugoslav authorities, who control the country's air traffic, say that the airport in the Slovene capital is unsafe after last week's bombing.

Mr Kucan said: "We are very anxious that the EC delegation should be present to monitor the ceasefire. We have offered safety and transport to no avail. They are

sympathy for Slovene aims. The president was barely seeking to hide the fact that he considers the Brioni agreement to be something of a poisoned chalice, concocted by a European Community which only half comprehends the complexities of what he called "this Balkan confusion". He said that peace remained fragile and would only become firm when the rest of the world made clear that it would not tolerate the use of force against the breakaway republic.

"The problem for Europe is that Yugoslavia is not a democratic state with a clearly defined relationship between the government and the army. The army is conserving a situation of tension where an incident on our side could easily spark off aggression on theirs".

He is a slightly-built man who all but disappears into his leather chair in the ornate conference room in the presidential palace. He has not yet acquired the haughty distance to accompany his title and, despite his exhaustion, he can still manage a joke or two. As a member of the Slovene Communist party since he was a schoolboy, he has found it difficult to win the confidence of the Christian Democrats who now dominate the government. But he has convincingly transferred his revolutionary zeal to the separatist cause. Ideological disputes have been dispelled by the federal army's attack which has done more than anything to re-establish the republic's identity.

Slovenia, he said, would never re-enter a Yugoslav federation, although he could imagine a community of southern European sovereign states modelled on the EC. "It is not our intention, as perhaps some Europeans fear, to break away into an enclosed autarchical state. Our future is open to negotiation."



Kucan: Slovene future is open to negotiation

being kept from us so that the federal army can clean up the traces of the damage it inflicted here during the fighting." Mr Kucan's concern reflects a feeling in Slovenia that, in the aftermath of the ceasefire, Belgrade has manoeuvred itself back into a position of influence with the EC, outweighing European



Taking cover: Croatian national guard soldiers duck behind an armoured personnel carrier as clashes between Serbs and Croats continued in Osijek, eastern Croatia yesterday. Two people were reported killed and three wounded in the fighting

Croatian clashes threaten truce

By ANNE McELVOY

THE nervous ceasefire in Yugoslavia was threatened once again yesterday by bouts of fighting in Croatia. Police and ethnic Serbs fought an overnight battle in which two people are reported dead and one seriously injured.

The fighting began inside a house on the outskirts of Osijek which was later rammed by an armoured personnel carrier and set on fire. Sporadic gunfire was reported throughout eastern Croatia during Wednesday night with no reports of casualties.

In Slovenia, which has been quiet since the ceasefire, a Yugoslav army convoy was forced to withdraw from the border with Croatia after it was surrounded by Slovene defence forces. The army withdrew 20ft into Croatian

territory. The commander of the federal airforce in Slovenia, Colonel Ljubomir Bajic, said yesterday that his pilots would not hesitate to destroy Slovene forces if military helicopters were attacked. Januz Jansa, the Slovene defence minister, had threatened to take action against helicopters which flew outside Slovene determined air corridors.

In a further reflection of unease, a summit of the presidents of the country's six republics, scheduled for today, was postponed after disagreements about the venue. Radio Belgrade reported that the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, has refused to travel to the island of Brioni while some other leaders would not meet in Belgrade.

Zagreb sees an Islamic buffer state as way out

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

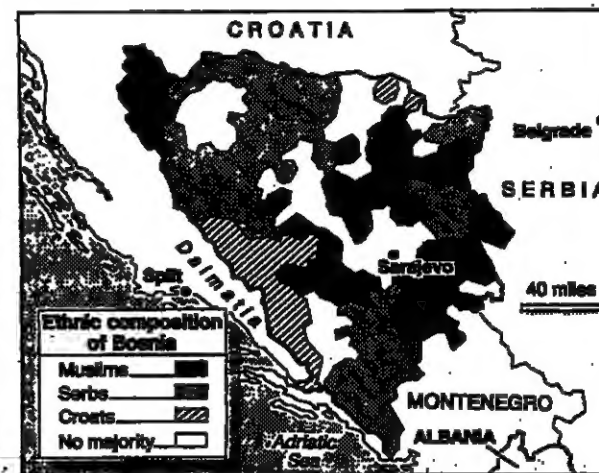
A SENIOR adviser to Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, confirmed yesterday that secret talks have taken place between the leaders of Serbia and Croatia to resolve the Yugoslav conflict by carving up the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and creating an Islamic buffer state between them. "It's on the table," said Mario Nobilo. "Maybe this is now the best option for a lasting solution."

His statement confirmed rumours which have been circulating for several months and explain remarks made by Dr Tudjman on television earlier this week when he said: "If the demand by Serbia that 'all Serbs live in one state' be realised, then nobody can deny the same rights to Croats."

While Bosnia-Herzegovina is a historic entity, there is no such thing as a Bosnian nation. Croats make up 19 per cent, Serbs 32 per cent and Muslims about 42 per cent.

Alija Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina who is a Muslim, has said that he believes that the three groups in his republic can continue to live together but on Wednesday he told the European Community to pay attention to the situation, saying it could "provoke war".

Mr Nobilo said that Dr Tudjman and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, had discussed the deal in at least two meetings. More talks had been proposed which had been postponed because of the situation in Slovenia. A key part of the negotiations would be the creation of a Muslim state in the centre of Bosnia-Herzegovina and voluntary population exchanges. Mr



Nobilo cited the mass changes of population between Turkey and Greece which took place after the first world war.

Mr Nobilo said: "If the Muslims believe they can turn the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina into an Islamic state they are wrong. There should be some deal. If they want a sovereign state we would respect it. It would be the size of Slovenia — they should seriously consider this." He emphasised that Croatia had no intention of "destabilising" Bosnia-Herzegovina. Changes could come only on the basis of self-determination. Both Serb and Croat leaders in the republic are interested in joining greater republics.

Mr Nobilo's revelations are bound to surprise EC foreign ministers, especially as he expects the partition to be discussed during talks due to take place over the next three months, as a result of the EC-brokered peace accord. The division would result in bloodshed as the three groups would fight over territory. The

Soviet leader faces challenge on taxes

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet Union's central authorities yesterday insisted on preserving their right to raise taxes directly from the country's republics, apparently challenging a decision taken earlier in the week by President Gorbachev. On Tuesday, a footnote in the final edition of the Soviet government's "anti-crisis programme" had acknowledged the right of the country's two biggest and richest republics to levy a single republic-level tax, rather than the two-tier tax demanded by central government.

The right to levy tax is emerging as the most keenly contested of all the differences between the centre and the nine Soviet republics that are currently hammering out a new union treaty. The centre wants each republic to raise a tax for their own use and a federal tax to be remitted directly to the centre.

Leaders of the Russian Federation and the Ukraine want a single-channel tax, from which their republic parliaments will agree a sum to be passed on to the centre. Otherwise, they argue, the federal tax will take precedence and the republics will be allocated only what is left, greatly reducing their economic control.

Both the Ukraine and Russia refused to sign the government's predominantly economic programme unless the tax arrangements were changed, and Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, said last week that most of the other republics agreed with them. The footnote in the final edition of the programme seemed to be the concession they had been waiting for and the prime ministers of both republics appended their signatures.

Yesterday, however, as discussion moved on to the new union treaty, which combines political and economic principles, senior members of the Soviet government and the Soviet parliament stressed that a federal tax was a prerequisite. Valentin Pavlov, the prime minister, told a Moscow press conference that the question of a federal tax was "absolutely vital to whether there will be a union or a confederation, whether there will be a single state or no state as such". No state exists without its own financial resources, he said.

● Food slump: the serious state of the Soviet food industry has been underlined by new figures which show slumping production of butter, cheese and meat in the first half of 1991. The figures are a body blow to the state, struggling to overcome critical food supply problems and facing a sharply lower grain harvest because of widespread drought.

Tass said a government food commission showed butter, cheese and meat production in the first six months of 1991 fell 13 per cent while sausage production dropped by 10 per cent. (Reader)

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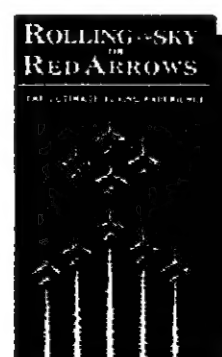
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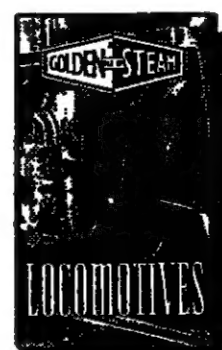
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MPs reject Wales's ballot bill

FROM PAT KOZA IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Walesa suffered another setback yesterday when parliament overwhelmingly rejected his latest attempt to change the rules for Poland's first free parliamentary elections, scheduled for October 27.

The Sejm, or lower house, rejected by 258-89 with 14 abstentions a presidential bill that would let Poles with less than five years' residency run for office, and would mean voters could opt for a party rather than individual candidates. The current law has a five-year residency requirement, which excludes those forced to emigrate during communist rule for political reasons.

Mr Walesa had previously vetoed two electoral bills that failed to include his suggestions, but the second veto was overridden by the Sejm and the president was constitutionally obliged to sign it. He reintroduced his proposals in the form of a new bill.

Some political observers believe Mr Walesa is using the controversy to deflect rising discontent over the economic hardship brought by Poland's radical reforms.

Charges of betrayal fall on Bonn's chosen sons

Will Helmut Kohl qualify for a free tombstone? Not if he is buried in Bonn, where he entered the history books as the chancellor of German unity. A free grave is a perk that goes with honorary citizenship, but after backing the campaign to move the government to Berlin, Herr Kohl is not even being considered for inclusion in the list of freemen, which includes most chancellors.

He has been nominated in Berlin, with Wolfgang Schäuble, the interior minister, whose impassioned speech probably clinched it. Thus, the grave question is settled for them.

As a Rhinelander, Herr Kohl was expected to opt for Bonn, especially as he is an admirer of Konrad Adenauer, the first West German chancellor, who picked the city as capital. Herr Kohl relishes his new nickname of "Adenauer's grandson", and it must have been a shock when Adenauer's real grandson left the Christian Democrats because he felt Herr Kohl had betrayed the party in backing Berlin.

There has been talk of stripping President von Weizsäcker of his honorary citizenship because he backed Berlin. The president was chosen in a poll recently as the politician from whom most

people would be likely to buy a used car. He did more than twice as well as Herr Kohl, who could only unload a second-hand Volkswagen on about 35 per cent of the population.

There has been some bitchiness towards the famous names who supported Berlin. Anger is rife in Pech, a village south of the city, about the behaviour of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who has lived there since he became foreign minister 17 years ago. He sold his house four months before the Bundestag vote. There is widespread muttering about how he persuaded most Free Democrats to back Berlin. The *Bild* asked: "Hans-Dietrich is in Bonn for three whole days this week. Is he ill?"

Ian Murray

There's more to discover at WH SMITH.

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Pretoria braced for long wait to see benefits as sanctions ease



Ramaphosa: comforted by IMF ban on funds

THE euphoria generated in South Africa by the lifting of American economic sanctions, and readmission to the Olympic movement and Test cricket, has given way to doubts and anxieties about what it all means. The answer in the short term is not very much.

American companies who deserted South Africa over the past five years are in no hurry to return, the African National Congress is fighting a rearguard action to preserve remaining sanctions, and local Olympic officials doubt whether South Africa will have a team at the Olympic Games in Barcelona next year.

Switzerland buoyed spirits yesterday by removing limits on capital exports,

Initial jubilation over the return to world trade and sport has given way to sober reflection on limited near-term prospects, Gavin Bell writes

and reports from Japan indicated its sanctions would be lifted within weeks. But the prevailing view is that there will be no immediate "gold rush".

Economists point out that no fewer than 26 states, 78 cities and 20 countries in the United States have imposed their own sanctions and are more likely than the federal administration to consult the ANC. They include California, which has the world's seventh-largest economy. An illustration of their

power is that South African Airways is still denied landing rights in New York.

Wayne Mitchell, the executive director of the American chamber of commerce in Johannesburg, says prospective American investors will be looking over their shoulders continually at their local governments and the ANC. Of equal concern are political violence and uncertain economic prospects. "Especially in the wake of the recent ANC conference, investors are unlikely to

make any major decisions until they have a clearer picture of the political and economic policies that will emerge. Few of them will be willing to make a move without being assured of government protection for their investments, and many cities and states may reserve judgment until they hear from the ANC," he said.

The Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (chamber of business) says foreign investments will be inhibited by continuing political violence and unfavourable market conditions, and economists say that restraint of trade orders could be slapped on South African goods if they penetrate significantly the American market. The most optimistic predictions are

that Pretoria's ailing economy will not benefit from increased foreign earnings before February or March next year.

The mood at ANC headquarters is one of defiance. Having resolved to pursue a phased approach to sanctions, linking their withdrawal to further progress towards a multiracial government, the organisation remains firm.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the new secretary-general, draws comfort from the fact that Pretoria is still denied access to funds from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and that regional American sanctions are still in place. He says the ANC is determined to dictate the pace of their

abolition. The organisation is equally recalcitrant on sporting contacts, arguing that more needs to be done to unify racially segregated administrations and to improve facilities for non-whites. "Many urgent matters still need to be resolved," it said. "Non-racial unity in sport and equal training facilities are essential to fulfil all the conditions of the Olympic Charter."

Johan du Plessis, secretary-general of the recently formed National Olympic Committee, took the point on his return from Lausanne yesterday. "There is plenty of work to be done before we can even think about sending a team to Spain. It is impossible for me to say at

this stage whether we will have a team at the Games. Everything depends on what happens in the country between now and then, politically and on the sporting front."

Sanctions meeting: President Kaunda of Zambia said yesterday that he would call a meeting of a special committee of the Organisation of African Unity to discuss developments over sanctions as worldwide opinions continued to differ (Our Foreign Staff writes).

A government official in Harare said that the time was not right to lift economic sanctions, but Israel said it was preparing to ratify lifting its sanctions.

Leading article, page 15

Blast at allied arms depot in Kuwait injures 50 soldiers

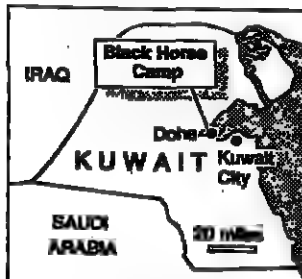
By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ABOUT 50 British and American soldiers were injured yesterday as shells exploded at an ammunition depot in Kuwait and several buildings caught fire.

Surgeons at the al-Sabah hospital, where 34 of the injured were treated, said one patient's skull was shattered by shrapnel and he was not expected to live. Three other soldiers, who had serious abdominal injuries, underwent exploratory surgery.

Military officials discounted the possibility of sabotage at the Black Horse camp in Kuwait City. They said the fire was believed to have been started by an electrical fault in one of the huge trucks that carry ammunition.

The defence ministry in London said that British soldiers had sustained only minor injuries and none was taken to hospital. There are 240 soldiers from a company of the 2nd Battalion Royal



Anglian Regiment in Kuwait, and all have been accounted for. The ammunition depot is close to the British mess hall, but it was empty at the time of the explosion.

US Staff Sergeant Judy Bradford told the Cable News Network that the 3,700 American soldiers and their British and United Nations counterparts had been moved from the camp and the area had been sealed off. It was the most serious accident involving allied troops in Kuwait since the expulsion of Iraqi forces from the emirate at the end of February.

Captain Susan Strodman, of the defence department in Washington, said that an ammunition truck had caught fire and 155 howitzer shells had exploded. US Sergeant Rodney Lewis said: "The sound was deafening and it shook all the buildings. You could see the shrapnel shooting in the air and a lot of smoke."

Although firemen reached the blaze within minutes, their equipment was unable to cope with the exploding munitions. "It was blowing out shrapnel so we had to pull back and then boom, it went off," said one American soldier, who was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.

"It tossed people around as they were trying to get away. That's why you have got a lot of these guys with broken ankles, broken arms," he said. Doctors said that most of the injured would be kept in hospital overnight.

Dozens of British, American and Kuwaiti soldiers blocked the road leading to the seaford village of Doha, almost invisible behind a pall of grey smoke and blowing sand. Most of the American soldiers stationed at the base are from the US Army's 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, based in Fulda, Germany. Many of them were on manoeuvres in the desert when the explosion occurred.

Much of the area surrounding the peninsula camp was evacuated in case more explosions took place, but UN peacekeeping troops based nearby were not removed. The fire was brought under control about four hours after the first explosion, but demolition experts set charges around the area to explode the remaining munitions.

"They've got a bunch of stuff lying around up there and they have got to get rid of it," said Colonel John Marcel, an American embassy military liaison officer monitoring developments from a nearby checkpoint. The ammunition at the base is stored on pallets in a large open-air compound. It includes tank and artillery rounds and various types of bullets.

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Sand blasted: British bomb disposal experts yesterday detonating one of the many mines laid by Iraqi forces along the beaches of Kuwait. In Washington, the Pentagon reported that in addition to the nine British soldiers killed in the Gulf war by US troops, 13 were hurt by friendly fire from Americans (Saman Elliott writes).

In its most detailed account yet of the number of allied deaths attributed to their own forces, the defence department said that the Americans also mistakenly killed 11 US soldiers. One defence official said the numbers were expected to increase slightly after further investigations.

The US army's central command headquarters in Tampa, Florida, said that friendly fire also wounded 15 American

soldiers. Military commanders, including Norman Schwarzkopf, the architect of the American military campaign, were at pains early in the allied air campaign against Iraq to tell the public that deaths from friendly fire were a common factor in modern wars.

But the reliance of the allies on sophisticated technology, much of it used on the battlefield for the first time, has prompted the US military to pay particular attention to the number of deaths from allied weaponry. The United States reported a total of 148 troops killed in action and 458 wounded during the war between January 17 and February 28. On the British side, 24 deaths in action in the Gulf conflict have been reported.

Iraq seeks oil cash to feed children

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations yesterday considered an Iraqi plea to relax sanctions to save the lives of thousands of children, but strong resistance from Britain and the United States made it highly likely it would be rejected.

Iraq's latest request for permission to sell oil to raise money for food and medicine came in a letter to the UN Security Council on Wednesday night. If Baghdad was not allowed to put \$1.5 billion (\$937 million) worth of oil immediately on the market, a "human catastrophe" was inevitable, Ahmed Hussein, the foreign minister, said in his letter.

To hammer home its message, Iraq has been showing starving children and typhoid-stricken adults in Baghdad hospitals to a UN team led by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, special commissioner for relief operations in the Gulf.

He was due yesterday to travel with relief supplies for Shia Iraqis marooned in marshes near the Iranian border. Mr Hussein said in his UN letter that the embargo had contributed to the deaths of 6,000 children from disease and malnutrition. He cited a study by a team from Harvard University which said 170,000 Iraqi children would die by the end of the year if UN sanctions were not lifted.

However, America and Britain are adamant that President Saddam Hussein must comply with a series of demands before they will consider relaxing the embargo on all trade, including oil sales, imposed by the security council after the Kuwait invasion.

On Wednesday, President Bush said he wants to continue full economic sanctions. He accused Saddam of allying himself with humanitarian aid and medicine to officials of his Baath party based in his home town of Tikrit.

The British first want Iraq to give precise information on the gold and cash it holds in reserve. Most important, the allies want to bring maximum pressure on Saddam to yield nuclear equipment and material which they believe he has still concealed.

Paris pact clears way for ties with Iran

Tehran - Iran said yesterday that it had resolved a two-year, billion-dollar dispute with France, removing the last obstacle to political and economic ties with Paris.

The Iranian news agency, Iran, said agreement in principle on a final protocol was announced after two days of talks in Tehran by the deputy foreign minister, Mahmoud Vaziri, and Francois Scherer, secretary-general of the French foreign ministry.

It said the pact would be ready for approval by the two foreign ministers soon. In Paris, the foreign ministry said a settlement was expected in the next few days, clearing the way for a visit to Tehran by President Mitterrand.

The dispute concerned repayment of a \$1 billion (\$625 million) loan the late Shah of Iran made in 1974 to the French Atomic Energy Commission for its Eurodif consortium. France repaid a total of \$630 million by 1988. In addition to the balance, Tehran has claimed another \$1 billion in interest. (Reuters)

Pakistan hardens nuclear line

Islamabad - Mian Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's prime minister, has said that Pakistan was ready to go to war if its nuclear sites were attacked. He told reporters his government had asked the armed forces to strengthen security to protect nuclear installations.

Mr Sharif did not mention a specific country but Pakistani newspapers have recently speculated that a group of Israelis in Indian-ruled Kashmir may have been preparing to attack a secret Pakistani nuclear facility at Kahuta, near Islamabad, India says the six Israelis, who were abducted last month by secessionist Muslim militants, were tourists. (Reuters)

China seeks aid

Peking - For the first time in its communist history, China appealed for international aid as floods left millions homeless and outbreaks of malaria and dysentery increased. Disaster relief officials said \$200 million (£117.6 million) was needed for emergency supplies and reconstruction.

Korea go-ahead

Seoul - South Korea will agree to a North Korean proposal that high-level talks between the two countries, suspended for seven months, should be resumed, according to a government spokesman. He indicated that the suggested Pyongyang venue and starting date of August 27 would be acceptable. (Reuters)

Crash kills 13

Birmingham, Alabama - A commuter plane of L'Express airline crashed in a residential area here, killing 13 passengers and injuring four people on the ground. It hit houses and burst into flames as it approached the airport in a thunderstorm. The pilot and a passenger survived and were taken to hospital. (AFP)

Moon sought

Bangkok - Arrest warrants have been issued for the Rev Sun Myung Moon, the Korean-born founder of the Unification Church whose followers are known as Moonies, and his wife for allegedly inciting criminal activity. (Reuters)

Quayle mourns

Franklin, Indiana - Martha Pulliam, Vice-President Quayle's grandmother and a former newspaper publisher, has died at the age of 100. During the 1988 presidential campaign, Mr Quayle said that she had inspired him during his youth. (AFP)

Congress vote irks Peking

From REUTER IN PEKING

CHINA reacted angrily yesterday to a vote by the American House of Representatives to cut its preferential trade status next year and attach conditions on human rights and other issues to its renewal.

"This is a gross interference in China's internal affairs which the Chinese government firmly rejects," Duan Jin, a foreign ministry spokesman said. Attaching conditions on human rights would be absolutely unacceptable to China. "We would like to tell the US Congress to stop this kind of activity which interferes in China's internal affairs and hurts the feelings of the Chinese people." If China's most favoured nation status, worth billions of dollars in trade each year, were taken away there would be a "serious retrogression" in relations, Mr Duan said.

The House voted 223-204 on Wednesday to pass a resolution overturning President Bush's extension of China's privileged trading status. The vote was largely symbolic since the Senate was not expected to join in disapproving the trade status.

Lawyer reads last rites over British imperialism

Hong Kong Chinese must choose between a hated regime or taking a gamble in the West, says David Watts

TORN between the West and the suffocating embrace of the motherland, these are days of painful schizophrenia for the Chinese of Hong Kong.

In barely six years, Peking will restore its rule over the Fragrant Harbour and reverse years of shame. In the meantime millions who fled to Hong Kong from China's bittersweet legacy must commit themselves either to the men of Tiananmen Square or the uncertainty of Western countries whose economic condition offers little in the way of opportunity for these arch-capitalists.

In the 16th-floor office of her legal practice at the very heart of one of the oldest and most successful colonial trading houses, Yiu Chu Liu epitomises the difficulties of the decisions ahead and the emotional settlement of accounts that is already dividing Chinese families, pushing up the suicide and divorce rates, and leaving many older people abandoned to their fate in Hong Kong.

Miss Liu, of indeterminate age, studied English literature at St Anne's College, Oxford, and did seven years' law research at Harvard. She alternates the fire of a Red Guard with the pert innocence of a Marilyn Monroe when she

knows she occupies the moral high ground. There is no doubt about the pleasure she derives from seeing the British get their comeuppance.

Miss Liu sits on the People's National Congress in Peking as a Hong Kong representative and is scorned by many Hong Kong people as a Peking stooge. That she may be. She claims to have fed significant information to Chinese negotiators as they prepared the new airport agreement in a long-running battle with British negotiators. But Peking equally wants to keep her at arm's length. No Peking official has forgotten the day she called for a minute's silence in memory of the dead of Tiananmen Square as the People's National Congress opened.

"We didn't have any enemies until the British came," she recalls, delving deep into the well-springs of Chinese resentment. "Not until Cap-

tain Elliot burned and killed his way into the capital. We don't forget these things. We have a sense of justice," she says, her eyes burning behind blue-rimmed glasses.

"We know the English better than your so-called Chinese experts know China. We dream in two languages." The British had vied up to their old tricks again in the negotiations over Hong Kong, she claimed, trying to push for its continued internationalisation under the noses of the Chinese government.

"Does the United States think it can win by its aggressive cross-border politics and call it human rights? No." Standing over a hapless personification of British imperialism, she adds: "You'll find you can recover a bit of your past glories if you don't push unfairly."

"The recovery of Hong Kong means the recovery of national *glory*. We're about to come out of the fog of foreign oppression. You left a lot of bad will. The joint agreement (between Britain and China) for the return of Hong Kong is an opportunity to turn bad will into good will. You don't have to pay your debts. You can build on all your wrongs and make them into successes."

Festivities in Mongolia eclipse economic woes

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN ULAN BATOR, MONGOLIA

MONGOLIA celebrated the 70th anniversary of its communist revolution yesterday in a display of drinking, betting and machismo in spite of the economic problems facing the country after abandoning the certainties of socialism.

Food shortages, industrial closures and growing unemployment were forgotten as Mongolians went to the races. Arguments over issues such as the privatisation of industry paled into insignificance as 200 out of 800 horses were disqualified for jumping the starter's gun in the 25-mile six-year-olds race.

It is not just the horses that are six years old; six is about the average age of the boys and girls who ride them, displaying the toughness of the descendants of Genghis Khan. Winning or losing is celebrated with fermented mare's milk. Mongolians are not unnerved by food queues.

The anniversary of the Mongolian revolution traditionally starts with a military march in the central square, and during the day

turns into the annual Nadam festival of the "three main sports" - archery, wrestling and horse racing. In the past, the National Day has been a showcase for the communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party. Just under a year ago the country's first multiparty elections returned the communists to power but gave



democratic parties a voice in parliament. Yesterday there was the usual military parade but there were no party banners. Instead, a group of Mongolian John Lennon lookalikes sang Beatles songs as political leaders mingled with the crowds in the central square. "The high mood of Nadam has

given some relief to people's concerns," Radnasambureljin Gonchigdorj, the deputy president, said over the strains of *Imagine*.

Economic worries, however, lay under the surface. "Some new items appeared in the shops for Nadam, but not sufficient," said Mrs Lhamuren, a housewife. "I had to queue for two or three hours for eggs and sausages." These days she prepares less food for her family. "I am not angry and they are not angry. I understand it will get better, as it does not affect just me, it affects everyone."

A newspaper poll found that only 30 per cent of the people questioned have confidence in the government, and 40 per cent thought it was not satisfactory. Yet there have been no mass demonstrations, and when political leaders took part in an archery competition, the crowd was delighted.

The economic situation has prompted fears that government hardliners will try to stage a comeback and President Ochirbat called for a national renaissance.

Ruffling the stuffed shirts

Kate Muir talks to
Janet Street-Porter
about money and
making programmes
for the BBC

Fortysomethings come in two types: those whose popular record collection fell by the classical wayside in the early Seventies with a last gasp of Bob Dylan and Queen, and those who kept on buying. Janet Street-Porter is in the latter category. Without question she is au fait with Vanilla Ice and Niggers With Attitude and the Pet Shop Boys. She is probably the only BBC executive with the Ultraviolet CD *I wish that* on her desk. It is hard to imagine the future director general, John Birt, for instance, in possession of such an object. And would he, as Ms Street-Porter did recently, spend his Saturday evening at a nightclub in Middlesbrough?

Presumably Mr Birt, 46, employed Ms Street-Porter, 44, so that he could avoid such activity himself. She is a trend-spotter in a BBC which often feels safer with the values of the train-spotter. Although six feet tall, her eyes are at punter level. As the head of youth and entertainment programmes, she gets her ideas from the streets, while other executives get them second-hand from newspapers.

For that reason, the old guard is less than keen on her, and horrified by the growth of her power in the BBC, from a tiny youth brief with almost no money three years ago, to a £9 million budget and 19 programmes fast invading mainstream television.

The Street-Porter style of management — using a minuscule and overworked permanent staff to oversee short-term contracts and independent production — has made her lean budget go far. This has the twofold effect of making Mr Birt, her mentor, happy, while bringing unease to the financially blameworthy departments around her.

Unease turned to apoplexy earlier this year when Ms Street-Porter was tipped as the new head of arts and music. The right-wing Monday Club wrote to warn the present director general of her unsuitability. She was a "promoter and purveyor of downmarket youth sub-culture programmes", they said.

To their relief Ms Street-Porter did not get the arts job, primarily because she did not apply for it.

"The reason I came here was to make my own programmes, not to take over someone else's." Her programmes are quite unlike anyone else's, and she likes it that way. She treads an uneasy line between the pioneering and the appalling, beginning with *Network 7* on Chan-



Leading edge: Janet Street-Porter says her image "isn't bland, isn't cosy, isn't run-of-the-mill. It's a bit edgy — people like you or loathe you"

nel 4, and expanding into the *Def II* slot on the BBC, and later aiming for an older audience with gems such as *Style Trial*.

Ms Street-Porter has more style than taste. This is reflected in her much-photographed wardrobe. It also explains the uneasy fascination of her programmes. She is the only BBC head of department whom ordinary telly-watchers can name. The rest are just received pronunciation in a suit, but Janet Street-Porter is a cockney accent, with teeth and glasses.

"Even when I stopped wearing brightly coloured glasses people who had just met me still wrote that I had them," says Ms Street-Porter, making up for her unobtrusive see-through frames with a glow-in-the-dark pink furry top, and slim green silk trousers. Oddly, she changes into a little black dress for the benefit of the photographer, and looks about half her age.

She also thinks like someone half her age, but like all the favoured Birt babies, she is startlingly efficient and understands that television nowadays is about money first, and art second.

She knew that when she gave up work in front of the camera as a

chat-show host in the early Seventies. "The other night in Middlesbrough three blokes in their thirties came up to me and said: 'You're that woman who was once on television, aren't you?' People don't forget me — I suppose in Britain at the time there were very few definite women. My image isn't bland, isn't cosy, isn't run-of-the-mill. It's a bit edgy — people either like you or loathe you but they never forget."

Taxi drivers in particular feel sorry for her, she says, not being on television any more, "but I'm thrilled to be a real creator of programmes and not a neurotic presenter wondering where my next job was coming from."

Ms Street-Porter is definitely creative, and this is an example of how it works. Driving past Madame Tussauds, she notices not only the kids, but their parents and grandparents are all dressed exactly the same — in shell suits (shiny track suits) and trainers.

Unlike most normal people, who would merely register horror that the populace actually liked wearing green, purple and pink simultaneously, Ms Street-Porter promptly

gave birth to a programme concept. "You see everybody in the country is sporting a tracksuit, it's completely brilliant, and even if they're not fit they like to look as if they are, and then there is that endless obsession with Callanetics and hang-gliding, so we got the idea for *Good Sport*, about sport and leisure rather than events and results. So we pitched it to Jonathan [Powell, controller of BBC1] to get money for a pilot, pitched it back from audience research, and pitched it to BBC Enterprises for some extra money."

Enough pinching there for a small baseball game. Ms Street-Porter, behind her ditsy exterior, is an operator. Describing her next project gets her wiggling in her chair with enthusiasm in her office in a BBC bunker which is decorated with her own framed posters.

"It's a soap opera," by which she does not mean *Neighbours*, but a classical opera, in soap-sized ten-minute chunks, in this case Heinrich Marschner's *The Vampire*. "We wanted a simple story we could easily rewrite in parts, and this has a vampire seducing three virgins in 24 hours, so it's got a lot going for it and it's incredibly evil. We're updating it

to work in central London now, and instead of noblemen and peasants, it's going to be about businessmen and secretaries."

Who else would say such things with a straight face? But Ms Street-Porter is fond of taking risks — she can be blamed or credited with creating the age of "infotainment" with *Reportage* and *The Rough Guide*, where news and facts were dressed up with fast cuts, wonky camera angles, glow-in-the-dark graphics and subtle overkill. Her youthful presenters were far from professional — the women wore sunglasses indoors, the men wore make-up. The programmes were a critical and popular success. The graphic style influenced the rest of television.

Ms Street-Porter is satisfied with her role as maverick to the stuffed shirts. "Ooh yes, they tried to keep me out for years at the BBC. But independent companies are worse. The things I could tell you about the men running them."

Fortunately for our legal bills, she refrains. "Being with an independent would be like being in an empty parking lot with one Fiat, whereas here I can have two parking lots filled with cars."

Homes where the heart was

Barnardos is preparing for the biggest party of its 125-year life, as old boys and girls head for a family reunion

Fifteen hundred Barnardos boys and girls are expecting an exuberant reunion with their brothers and sisters on Saturday, the first ever mass party since Dr Barnardo started his homes 125 years ago.

There will be a brass band and a big iced cake with candles in a marquee on the green at Backingside, near Ilford in Essex, the Barnardos headquarters. Around the green are cottages with names such as Beehive and Myrtle where, until the 1970s, orphaned and abandoned children lived with a "mother" and the security of being part of the Barnardos family for ever. The cottages are offices now.

"Once in Barnardos you always belong," says Colette Bradford, the head of the team of 15 after-care workers. "We get about 100 letters a month, people telling us all about their lives and families. This job's got a lot of heart in it."

Nellie Plumb from Enfield, Middlesex is going to be there with her friend Rose, to take another peep at Myrtle Cottage. Orphaned with four sisters at seven, she remembers a happy childhood. "They were strict, but they were kind to us. We had bread and dripping for breakfast, and porridge when your turn came round, and if it was your birthday you had a boiled egg and bread and marmalade."

Though for ever linked in the public mind with providing succour for orphans, nearly all of the homes are closed now. Instead Barnardos helps some 20,000 children a year by finding foster and adoptive parents. The few remaining homes are for those with special problems.

This national get-together of all the "children" down the years — from Harry Smith, aged 90, flying from Canada specially for it; to the last from the Seventies homes — comes

just as Barnardos is taking its next step forward.

In September, Barnardos is opening new offices to counsel families with parents or children who have Aids. One of its urgent tasks, says Carol Lindsay Smith, the development officer for the project, is to work out with dying parents how their children should be cared for.

"Some parents are desperate. They come to Barnardos because we are independent — they are afraid if they go to the social services their children may be taken into care."

Another service that keeps the after-care team busy is tracing blood relatives for Barnardos children. "In the Seventies we might have had a hundred requests for information in a year," Ms Bradford says. "Now we have about 1,500. We are very careful about preparing them for meeting relatives they've never seen."

Sydney Bracken, aged 47, is one Barnardos boy who is going to the party with photographs of the blood brothers and sisters he found just 18 months ago. He was the child of a love affair after his mother, who already had two sons, was mistakenly told her husband was killed during the war. The returning soldier could not accept someone else's baby, so Mr Bracken was taken to Barnardos.

"One day I went to Backingside with my wife and I started asking questions," Mr Bracken says. "Three days later they telephoned and said yes, my parents were dead, but did I know I had brothers and sisters? There were two sisters born after me. We met at my sister's. She just put her arms around me and that was it."

YVONNE THOMAS
© Times Newspapers Ltd 1991



Father figure: Dr Thomas Barnardo in about 1900

Putting God back into godparents

Couples who propose friends as their children's godparents can soon expect to be quizzed more closely by the vicar as to their suitability for the job

GODPARENTS have had a charmed image ever since Cinderella's godmother wangled that invitation to the ball. This Saturday, however, when the Church of England's General Synod meets in York, some fairy godmothers could come down to earth.

Among the subjects for debate at the synod will be baptism and the nature of the suitable godparent. According to canon B23 of church law, a godparent must be both baptised and confirmed (although not necessarily into the church that the child is being raised in). A vicar can, however, use his judgment to waive the confirmation requirement.

In practice, however, not all vicars bother to ask well in advance if a godparent is baptised. "Also they usually come from some distance, so the vicar isn't likely to meet them beforehand and check their suitability," says Steve Jenkins, the Church of England press officer.

Some vicars take the subject seriously. The Rev Audrey Cozens from Westcliff-on-Sea in Essex had to point out the difficulties to a couple hoping for a Muslim godparent. "I've also turned down godparents who haven't been baptised. It's total nonsense to have

godparents who aren't baptised — rather like proposing someone for a club of which you're not a member yourself."

The Right Rev Colin Buchanan, the president of the Movement for the Reform of Infant Baptisms, sees godparents as "lightweight trills."



Fairy godmother: but how do real ones measure up?

The nature of the parents is much more crucial. But when a couple come to me about a christening, I always say 'Tell me about your godparents and their commitments. Why do you think they're suitable?' I wouldn't worry if someone

turned up like a punk rocker, providing they were Christians."

There is always a temptation to choose godparents simply because they are friends. Roger Cozens, the deputy secretary of the Mothers' Union (and married to

over? Back to canon B23, which states that godparents shall "faithfully fulfil their responsibilities by their care for the child" and by "setting an example of their own Godly living". Mr Jenkins says: "Historically, godparents brought up children if their parents died to save them from going to the orphanage. Nowadays, it's more about taking an interest in the child's faith."

However, Mr Cozens admits that very few "actually ring up and say 'Is little Johnny going to Sunday school?'"

Parents often have their own ideas of what constitutes a good godparent. Anita Hedges is an agnostic, but because her husband, Cliff, is a practising Christian, she looked long and hard for "someone who took heed of Christian principles when living his life". The Hedges, from Guildford, finally chose one couple who went to church and another who did not. "All of them see the children regularly," Mrs Hedges says, "and when we stay with the church-going set, they go to a service with them, which provides a good helping of the Christian faith."

JANE BIDDER
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THE INSIDE STORY

الطريق الى...

GALLERIES: LONDON

Dealer who came up trumps

John Russell Taylor on a show honouring a dealer rather than an artist, plus a history of the first 60 years of the Royal Academy

When the bouquets are being handed out, art dealers seldom receive an awful lot of criticism. More damningly, dealers complain about one another. Only now, as recession bites in the auction houses, are people wondering whether dealers may, after all, have their uses. In this context it is illuminating to recall the career of Ambroise Vollard.

That opportunity comes with a remarkable show at Agnew's, devoted to the period from 1895 to 1913 when he was organiser, encourager and ultimately publisher of painters-turned-printmakers. He arrived in Paris from Réunion in 1890, intending to become a lawyer. But at once he was led astray.

He was, increasingly, gripped with a consuming passion for the relatively unregarded prints that some of the great artists of the day were making, usually as a commercial sideline or to oblige a friend with a poster. In 1893 the first important step towards formal appreciation of these prints was taken, with the inaugural issue of *L'Estampe Originale*, a part-work that invited subscribers to regard lithographs as original works of art. Vollard began as a dealer in a tiny way, but in a year or two had moved to the Rue Lafitte, just

down the road from the Impressionists' great champion, the dealer Durand-Ruel. Uniquely among print dealers of the time, Vollard was not content merely to circulate material already in existence. He saw that there were many younger artists whose gifts naturally fitted them for the colour lithograph. All they needed was encouragement, a publisher for the prints and sometimes a basement to work in.

By offering all three, Vollard became the great impresario of the colour lithograph in France. He was particularly lucky in that the young artists with whom he had a particular affinity were the Nabis — such figures as Vauillard, Bonnard, Maurice Denis and Ker-Xavier Roussel. They were looking, even in their painting, for a "cubist" style that bounded areas of flat colour with distinct outlines, as in cloisonné enamel.

This emphasis on flat patterns in colour ideally suited the lithograph. The whole group took to it. Among early triumphs were the albums by

the principals of the group, Bonnard's *Quelques Aspects de la Vie de Paris* (1895-99), Vauillard's *Paysages et Intérieurs* (1899) and Denis's *Amour* (1892-98).

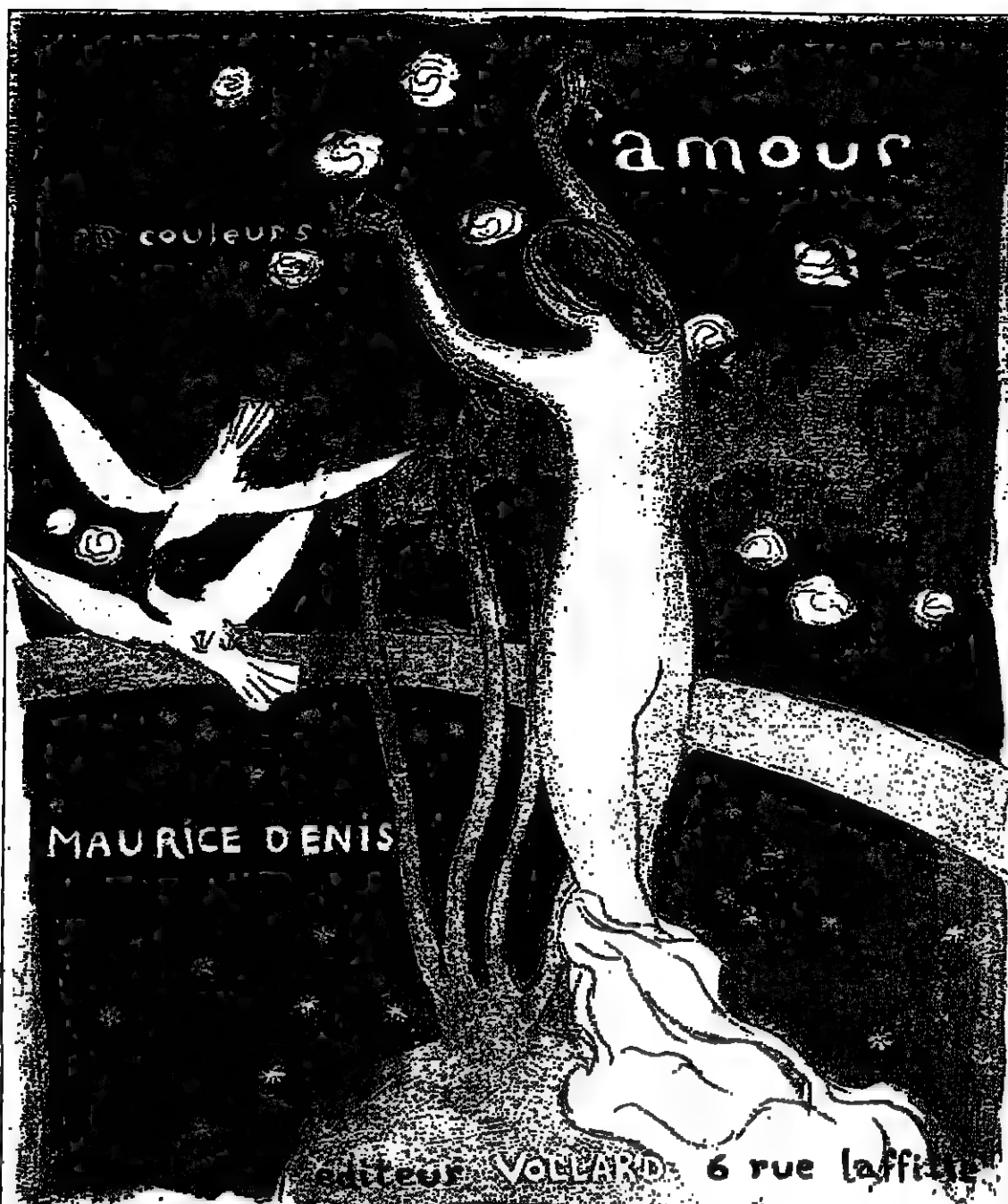
Vollard also persuaded more established artists, such as Lautrec, Renoir, Cézanne and Redon, to work with him, producing lithographs and, occasionally, other kinds of print. Agnew's show contains virtually all the separate prints published by Vollard, and all the albums. The tally is astonishing — especially as there are so few that are less than superlative.

Despite Vollard's devotion to colour, some of the most striking works are in black and white, such as Redon's 24 monochromatic lithographs for *La Tentation de Saint-Antoine* and Picasso's 14 etchings and drypoints, *Salimbanches* (a graphic equivalent of his Blue and Rose period paintings of acrobats and circus performers). Less well known are the occasional lithographs by designers such as Georges de Feure and Georges Aurier. But even the most remote corners of Vollard's *Album des peintres-graveurs*, published in 1896 as the first proclamation of his intentions, still bear witness to his catholic taste. The show ends with the first illustrated Verlaire's *Parallèlement et Daphnis et Chloé*, both

with lithographs by Bonnard. This was the beginning of something new, which was to preoccupy Vollard for the rest of his life and make him one of the most important creators of the modern illustrated book in France. But that is a story for another exhibition.

If dealers seldom get a good press, academies fare little better. The Royal Academy has not been doing badly of late. Reaction to the present Summer Exhibition was predictably stuffy, but praise has been heaped on the new Sackler Galleries, and its opening exhibition, "The Favourite Landscape". In the midst of this excitement the other new show — which reflects much more closely on the Academy's history — has gone virtually unmentioned.

The show, in the old Private Rooms, is called *From Reynolds to Lawrence*, and covers the first 60 years of the Academy from 1768 to 1828. It is a splendid collection. Most of the paintings and sculptures in the permanent collection are, in pieces or, for founder members like



An early triumph for Vollard: the cover for Maurice Denis's album of lithographs, *Amour*, 1892-98

Reynolds who did not have to provide one, are works given by the artists or their heirs.

For those who are used to Diploma pictures as primarily large and dingy canvases stuck unceremoniously on the old stairs to the old Diploma Gallery (now swept away), this display will come as a revelation. Sometimes, of course, there is some mystery as to why an artist thought one particular picture showed his talents off to advantage. Why did Turner fancy *Dolbadern Castle*, a grim picture at best, or Constable favour the overworked picture at present in the Constable

show at the Tate? On the other hand, Fuseli's *Thor Battering the Midgard Serpent* is a highly characteristic and dramatic work, and lesser-known pieces, such as Jean François Rigaud's *Samson and Delilah*, prove unexpectedly spirited.

The sculptures, mostly long unseen, are striking testimony to the vitality of the classical tradition in England: Thomas Banks's *The Falling Titan*, Westmacott's *Jupiter and Ganymede* and Agostino Caracci's marquette for an equestrian statue of George III will shake up a lot of received opinions.

True, some strain is occasionally

to be observed when natural miniaturists and intimists try to pull themselves to the heights by their bootstraps. But the evidence of the last room, which contains copies of the masters and anatomical mouldings used as learning tools, suggests that, however hide-bound these teaching techniques may seem now, they produced results.

Ambroise Vollard, Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-629 4359). Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs 6.30), to July 26. From Reynolds to Lawrence, Royal Academy, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily 10-6, indefinitely.

RECORDS: ROCK

Committed and caring rockers

THE Dan Reed Network, five reconstructed rockers from Portland, Oregon, have forged a reputation for splicing power chords to funk rhythms, and singing less about getting their lemons squeezed than about the need for a new world order based on notions of "peace, harmony and 'positivism'".

Building on these catholic foundations, the Network's third album, *The Heat*, is their most outlandishly versatile work yet, a riot of highly accomplished performances that persistently goes against the grain of the heavy rock stereotype. On the fringes are oddities such as the electro-metal version of Pink Floyd's "Money", and a scratchy pseudo-delta blues arrangement of "Chill Out". At the heart of the matter are bombastic surges of melodic rock such as "Love Don't Work That Way" and "They Will Be Done", the latter an impassioned if simplistic rock-rap broadside across the bows of "the leaders of the plane".

Despite its considerable merits, there is a residual sense of contrivance in the way that this caring, sharing, catch-all collection manages so effortlessly to reconcile extremes. It is noisy but clever, hard yet sensitive, a tonic for headbanger and hippie alike; after a while you start longing for it simply to nail its musical colours to the mast one way or the other.

No such problems of identity attach to Chris Whitley's intriguing debut, *Living With the Law*, a grumpy masterpiece.

DAVID SINCLAIR

London WB (081-748 4081) October 25, 26; Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham (021-328 4884) October 26.

● Yousou N'Dour, Ruthless Rap Assassins, Kats and Anna McGarrigle, Marta Sebestyen & Musicals, African Headcharge and Toumani Diabate are among the line-up for the Women's Holiday Week at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire (0524 582667) August 23-26.

● US stadium-rock veterans Foreigner join in unusually reduced circumstances when they visit the Marquee, London WC2 (071-437 5603) on Monday July 15. It will be the first British show to feature new vocalist Johnny Edwards. The band plans to return for arena-size dates later in the year.

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YORK EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Plucky numbers

The official theme of this year's York Early Music Festival may be "Gods, Dreams and Fancies" but its mascot is surely Orpheus, the original lyricist. Presumably oblivious to his grisly fate, pluckers and singers of every description have been scrambling to prove themselves more Orphean than Orpheus. Two have enjoyed conspicuous success, each coming from a base in Cologne: Benjamin Back Bagby, an American balladeer of Anglo-Danish extraction, and the German lutenist Konrad Junghänel.

But the real god on these occasions is, of course, Authenticity, and many are the sins committed in his name. The true uses of Bagby's chosen instrument, the lute, though biblically authenticated, are as lost in the mists of time as the origins of *Beowulf*, the Anglo-Saxon epic whose first quarter he vividly recreated. That neatly cut the ground from under the purist. What was incontrovertible about Bagby's performance was its ring of truth.

He gave it the Homeric treatment. Barely glancing at his abbreviated score, as if improvising, he delivered scene-setting narrative with lifting intonation such as an actor might employ. But whenever drama intervened he switched imperceptibly into an uncanny *Sprechgesang* from which his wide-ranging

lyric tenor swooped smoothly into pure song when emotion demanded. Old English has rarely seemed so alive. All the while he strummed or plucked his lute in relatively simple variations on a pentatonic theme, adding a bewitching oriental feeling.

Altogether less histrionic, but just as riveting in the candlelit calm of Sledmere Church, was Junghänel's evocation of the lutenist-composer Sylvius Leopold Weiss. His fingers did all the singing that was needed. Movements from Weiss series were interspersed with extracts from earlier French models. Most notable of these was the first *tombereau* in history, Ennemond Gaultier's for Mesangeau (1638), where the harmonic suspensions were tantalisingly stretched.

But it was in the acme of lute repertory, by Weiss himself, that technique really told. Ornamentation, always tightly controlled, glinted like shot silk. With his left hand stalking, cat-like, around the fingerboard, and his right grasping the strings as if pouncing on a prey, Junghänel still managed an unburied grace even at the most demanding tempos. Here, as in *Beowulf*, one could hardly doubt the numinous presence of Orpheus himself. After these two, there is no looking back.

MARTIN DREYER

No other film festival has a site to equal Jerusalem's. From the terraces of the Cinematheque, lawns sweep down into the valley of Hinnon, where — according to the Old Testament — the prophet Ezekiel saw the bones spring to life. Mount Zion and the ancient city wall rise up beyond.

The place is not only biblical, it is also a place of memory. In recent memory the valley was a bloody no-man's-land between the two parts of the divided city. The Cinematheque was created out of old ruined buildings through the single-minded determination of its founders and directors, Wim and Lia Van Leer.

Every Israeli has a story, and history is more concentrated here than in most other places in the world. Films can take a colour from the context of a festival. Though the Jerusalem programme is international and broadly catholic, its films invariably offer a specially vivid reflection of the Jewish experience.

Films and film-makers that might ordinarily not even be thought of as Jewish take a different complexion here. In Cannes, David Mamet's new film *Homicide* could pass as a quirky variant on the police thriller. In the Jerusalem context it appears as an anguished exploration of Jewish identity. The story tells how a rough-and-tumble cop, working on a force steeped in racism, finds himself investigating the racist killing of an old Jewish lady, and begins painfully to recognise his own loss of roots.

Jewish themes were inadmissible in Soviet cinema until perestroika; and Leonid Gorovets's *Ladies' Tailor* is the first breakthrough as a wholly Jewish film with mixed Russian and Yiddish dialogue. The story is set in Kiev in the autumn of 1941, as Ukrainian Jews are being systematically rounded up for extermination at Babi Yar. The elderly tailor and his turbulent family are spending the final days in their old home, together with the Russian family that has been allocated the house after their departure.

In this remarkably accomplished first film, Gorovets captures the oppressiveness of the crowded house, the sense of unknown but terrible impending fate, and the tensions of race, class and politics. He deliberately uses untranslated Yiddish to convey the irritation to the Jews' uncomprehending Russian neighbours. Gorovets made the film

Celluloid sights for ancient sites

David Robinson finds unlikely themes at the Jerusalem Film Festival



Simplistic, yet startling: Eran Riklis's *Cup Final*

Against the background of a revival of racism in the Ukraine: "We shot and edited the film under war conditions," he says. "Kiev was full of rumours about possible pogroms." Immediately after finishing the film earlier this year, he emigrated to Israel and now lives in Tel Aviv.

The Cinematheque and the festival are a significant centre of liberal and humanist sentiment, and progressive politicians such as Simon Peres and Teddy Kollek, the redoubtable octogenarian mayor of Jerusalem, are regularly to be seen there. Peres was prominent at the premiere of a new Israeli film, Eran Riklis's *Cup Final*.

World Cup score. The theme is simple, but Riklis avoids obvious characterisations: the PLO group includes all sorts, killers and fanatics as well as less violent idealists.

The range of Jewish subjects in films from around the world is astonishing. From Germany, Joerg Graser's *Abraham's Gold* is a contemporary story about an old man with a sordid Holocaust secret. From Canada, Deepa Mehta's charming *Sam and Me* relates the knish of two outsiders, an old Jewish immigrant and a young man just arrived from India.

From America, *Black to the Promised Land*, by Madeleine Ali, records the adventures of a gang of high-spirited black children from New York who spend three months on a kibbutz. From Sweden, Kjell Grede's *Good Evening Mr Wallenberg* dramatises (rather ineffectually) the work and death of Raoul Wallenberg. From Czechoslovakia, Karel Kachyna's *The Last Butterfly* stars Tom Courtenay as a mime required to entertain the children of the Terezin concentration camp, as a public relations exercise for the Red Cross.

A Franco-German co-production, Agnieszka Holland's *Europa, Europa* tells the true story of Salomon Perel, who as a boy posed as a Russian and then lived under Nazi occupation in constant terror that his circumcision would betray him. Perel himself, now living in Tel Aviv, appears in person at the end of the film. From France, too, came Christian de Chalonge's dramatisation of the grisly career of Dr Marcel Petiot, who robbed and murdered dozens of Jews on the pretext of sheltering them from the Nazis.

Inevitably, the great fascination for the visitor is to experience such re-enactments of Jewish history in the special context of Jerusalem. They represent, though, only part of a programme notable for its variety and including retrospectives of Visconti, Roger Corman and Chen Kaige. Corman and Chen were both conspicuously present at the festival. Remarkably, considering its grave recession and dire predictions for the future, British films made the best showing of any national cinema, with no fewer than 13 offerings, including Derek Jarman's *The Garden* and Mike Leigh's *Life is Sweet*.

Factory firsts

OPERA Factory will be resident at the South Bank Centre for the next three years. Its plans for the Queen Elizabeth Hall, announced yesterday, include notable premieres: Philip Glass's *The Flower of Youth* (September 1992) and Iannis Xenakis's *The Bacchae* (1993). Later will come new operas from Nigel Osborne, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Arlbert Reimann.

Home thoughts

SIR Eduardo Paolozzi returned to his home town on Tuesday to attend the unveiling of a work commissioned to stand in front of Edinburgh's Roman Catholic cathedral. Passers-by were initially startled by the immense, dislocated hand and foot that now preside over a busy roundabout. An exhibition, focusing on the cultural contribution of Italian-Scots, has just opened at the National Gallery of Scotland.



Paolozzi in Edinburgh: the National Library in Edinburgh, with Paolozzi prominently featured.

Last chance...

THE key lines have not run smoothly for Mark Rylance's outdoor *Tempest*, touring the magic spots of England in what began as the wettest summer for years. But the elements have cheered up for the season at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre site on Bankside. Final performances are tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7.30pm; Saturday's matinee at 2pm (071-379 4444).

RICHARD LONG
WALKING IN CIRCLES

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TATE GALLERY **BARCLAYS**

As the world's leaders make their way to London for the latest round of G7 talks, *Times* writers set the scene

The world circus comes to town

Michael Binyon describes how a cosy economic summit grew and grew into the biggest diplomatic jamboree for statesmen, journalists and assorted hangers-on

A fireside chat in Paris, to discuss the turmoil in the currency markets, marked its beginnings. Sixteen years later it has become the most important annual meeting in the world: a well-rehearsed and carefully stage-managed extravaganza to chart a course for political and economic stability around the globe. The Group of Seven meeting has supplanted the superpower summits as the forum where the fate of the world is decided.

G7 has long outgrown the cosy gathering that met in Rambouillet palace. Each of the world leaders arriving in London this weekend will bring several planeloads of ministers, advisers, interpreters, press spokesmen, protocol chiefs, valets and security guards. Almost 4,000 journalists will fill the Queen Elizabeth Centre, commandeered as a press centre and stuffed with banks of telephones, television monitors, mobile studios and briefing centres. Communiqués, speeches and press kits will be distributed by the ton. The official programme and protocol guide fills more than 100 pages.

Fish farms will be emptied to provide enough Scotch salmon, half a ton of beef will be roasted to feed the press alone, and strawberries and cream, seafood and wine will be consumed in quantities that rival Heston and Wimbledon. A massive security operation will secure the streets of London, thousands of police will attempt to unblock the expected limousine jams, and embassies, taxis, caterers and tourist information centres will be working overtime to cope with the invasion. Kew Gardens, London theatres and the Stoke Mandeville hospital are being spruced up for a programme of visits by the leaders' wives.

World attention to the economic summit has grown relentlessly since President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing first invited the leaders of Britain, West Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States to Paris in 1975. The following year the Canadians joined, and made it seven. (The European Community is also represented by the president of the commission and the president of the Council of Ministers.) This year a gatecrasher has arrived at the party: Mikhail Gorbachev, whose success in wangling an invitation to meet all the G7 leaders may set a precedent for regular attendance from now on.

The agenda has also moved far beyond a narrowly economic brief. It now embraces world trade, the environment, drugs, developing countries' debt, arms sales, nuclear non-proliferation and the creation of market economies in former communist countries. This year three more themes have been added: the Middle East, the collapsing Soviet economy and the turmoil in Yugoslavia.

Every year the spectacle and the pomp grows, as the host country tries to establish its turn in the chair as the decisive turning point in world affairs. President Mitterrand coupled the G7 with the bicentenary of the French revolution; President Bush laid on a

rodeo and a Texan barbecue; John Major is inviting his guests to the Tower of London to dine in the room where Anne Boleyn spent her last days, inspect the Crown Jewels and witness the ceremony of the keys. The Queen's banquet at Buckingham Palace will be followed by military bands, a laser show and fireworks.

For weeks, senior civil servants preparing the three-day meeting — known as sherpas — have been flying across continents to draw up an agenda, produce briefing papers and coordinate issues individual leaders want to raise. Mr Major's chief coordinator went to Moscow to explain to Mr Gorbachev the niceties of how the Soviet leader's outline of economic reform can be dovetailed with the G7 discussion. Finance ministers have held a preliminary meeting. Foreign ministers are already working on the final communiqué. Yet the leaders themselves will not be programmed by their minders. G7 is still relatively fluid and informal. The agenda is only a guideline.

Discussions may range over the Brazilian rainforests or the latest initiatives for debt relief in the third world; they are more likely to focus on Yugoslavia or British, American and Japanese proposals to limit the export of arms to the Middle East. It is this untrammelled tour d'horizon that gives the G7 its peculiar influence. The countries represented are those that have greatest control over the issues they confront: they generate the wealth, export the arms, produce the high technology, maintain the nuclear arsenals, give the aid and embody the democratic systems that determine the course of world events. G7 is the only body where two of the world's most successful economies, Germany and Japan, have equal standing with nations that have traditionally played a more active world role. It is the forum where the nexus between economic strength and political influence is explicit. As Helmut Kohl, a member of Gerald Ford's administration, said: "It is where economics become politics, and politics become economics."

The summit has no power to take binding decisions. But any consensus it reaches determines the atmosphere and often the outcome in executive agencies engaged in negotiation: the Uruguay Round of trade talks, the European Community or the United Nations, for example.

Increasingly the G7 meetings have eclipsed the summit meetings between Soviet and American leaders, which once dominated world affairs. They were landmarks in the attempts to curb superpower rivalry, limit the arms race, curb proxy wars throughout the world and boost East-West understanding. But the sudden collapse of communism throughout the world has removed both the frisson and raison d'être of superpower summits.

Besides, it is now clear to everyone that there are no longer two superpowers. America stands

alone as a nation of supreme influence. The only accoutrement of power shared by the Soviet Union is a vast nuclear arsenal. But arms control is no longer the yardstick of East-West relations.

G7 is in danger of being suffocated by its own success: too many issues, too much hyperbole, too many expectations. And it is increasingly resented as the rich men's club by those who are not invited. Mr Gorbachev is trying to barge his way in, and may yet succeed. Other East European leaders are now proposing that they, too, should be invited. China wants to be kept abreast. Smaller West European countries feel left out, and the developing world is lobbying to be heard.

Inevitably, G7 will grow to G10 or G12, will become more formal and less effective. At the same time the core economic issues are more and more decided by just three countries: the US, Germany and Japan. And if G3 broadens out beyond a fireside chat, the whole process begins again.



Chancellor Helmut Kohl will urge the West to step up aid to the Soviet Union at the G7 summit next week. So well he might. There are still more than 300,000 Soviet troops on German soil, and their withdrawal may well depend on the survival of Mikhail Gorbachev — "Misha" as the Chancellor calls him.

Last month, the Kremlin made it known that it was slowing down the rate of troop withdrawal as the Germans, in the Kremlin's opinion, have been dilatory in fulfilling their promise of financing the housing of the troops on their return to the Soviet Union.

The pressure which Mr Gorbachev at present applies to Germany is not exactly blackmail. It might be described as grey mail. He has agreed to withdraw the troops by 1994. Formally, that agreement was unconditional, but it is now clear that he will not do so unless the Kremlin is adequately paid for withdrawing them. For Mr Gorbachev, so far, the price of withdrawal is no more than the cost of rebalancing the troops. But a successor might set a higher price. Dangled is inherently elastic. Today's grey mail could be succeeded by all-out blackmail.

It seems to follow that it is in Germany's interest that the statesman who agreed to withdraw the troops by 1994 should remain in office until that date. This perception gives Mr Gorbachev his strongest card. He is the nice cop, and if he falls, a tough cop, as yet unknown, may take his place. So the nice cop must be paid in order to help him stay on the beat.

At present it seems unlikely that Mr Gorbachev can last as far as 1994 without massive aid from outside Germany, burdened by the costs of unification cannot, on its own, supply aid on the scale required. So the Chancellor will ask the G7 to come to the aid of the Soviet Union, and of Germany. The response of the seven is unlikely to meet Soviet expectations.

A spokesman for the German

Will Gorbachev be the spectre at the rich man's feast, asks Conor Cruise O'Brien

government, responding to the Kremlin's announcement of a slowdown in the rate of the withdrawal of troops, referred to the danger of anarchy in the Soviet Union. Anarchy is certainly one danger, but a greater one may lie in the strength of the recoil from anarchy. There is a powerful tacit coalition — including the military leadership, the KGB, and the party and state bureaucrats — which is determined that the Soviet Union shall not go the way of Yugoslavia. The Soviet Union cannot be held together without the threat of force, and the actual use of force, in some areas, to make the threat credible throughout the Kremlin's empire.

In that process, glasnost is likely to perish, and some form of neo-Stalinism to return. And the tough style of leadership that will be required to hold the Soviet Union together will be felt in international affairs also. Those who rule at home through the threat of force will be likely to reflect on what may be attainable internationally, and economically, by the same threat, coming from a bankrupt nuclear superpower. Grey mail will turn to blackmail. The price for the withdrawal of those troops will rise.

The present condition of Germany is an unparalleled and dangerous condition of strength and weakness. In many ways, Germany towers over Europe, as was symbolised by the all-German Wimbledon final. But Germany is also uniquely vulnerable without nuclear weapons of its own, and still occupied by the troops of a nuclear superpower. How long can that occupation last? What uses

may be made of it, as power in the Soviet Union shifts?

These are perhaps the greatest European questions marks for the early 1990s. It is not surprising that they have not been answered. But it does seem surprising that they should be receiving so little public attention. It is understandable, however, that Bonn does not want to talk about them, or have them talked about by Germany's friends and allies.

German foreign policy at present lacks coherence. While warning about the dangers of "anarchy" in the Soviet Union, Bonn supports the independence of Slovenia and Croatia. The break-up of Yugoslavia is now inevitable, but it may be imprudent for the Germans to be seen to be playing a leading role in fomenting it. Moscow, needing German money, is less vocal than Belgrade in its public reactions at present, but the paranoid strain in Moscow's thinking is not extinct, as the world was reminded by Prime Minister Pavlov's public rumormongers about a conspiracy of Western bankers to undermine the rouble.

Even Russians who are somewhat less fanciful than Mr Pavlov can now present Germany as renewing its *Drang nach Osten* by sowing divisions among Slavs, with the Soviet Union due to follow Yugoslavia on the road to disintegration. A neo-Stalinist restoration in Moscow could rally its followers under the sign of the unmasking of a German plot.

There has been a great deal of talk about the cold war being over, and about NATO no longer having a role. These cozy notions seem to me to rest on optimistic and unexamined assumptions about future developments in the Soviet Union. It would be wiser to postpone optimistic forecasting until the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Germany has been completed. Just for the present we should allow for the possibility that the empire may yet strike back.

The lingo of summity

Philip Howard

The Group of Seven brings to London tomorrow its summit symposium on profit and loss. The only part of that sentence that means exactly the same in all their languages is Seven. And I am not sure about that, since the G7 now actually comprises eight, since the EC joined the team in 1977.

Words, like trade, follow the flag. You can trace the history of a country in the story of its words.

Profit is an old word that has become too big for its boots in the past ten years of monetarist dogma. Monetarism reminded us of the practical truth that economic markets operate most effectively without government intervention. The men behind the barrows in the Portobello Road are better at calculating profit and loss and competition and how much the canny shopper will stand than civil servants and other external philosophers such as G7, whose living does not depend upon the calculation. But this does not mean all human activity is the same as what goes on in a grocer's shop.

Profit is a perfectly sound concept to apply to market activities such as running a wheel stall

on Southend pier on a hot summer bank holiday. I guess that this is probably a more difficult activity than it is reputed to be in the popular catch-phrase. But just because you can calculate the profit and loss from running a wheel stall, you cannot do it for everything. It is orange-juice nonsense to talk about profit in the wheel-stall sense when referring to schools, museums, universities, the BBC, the arts, health, the Black Watch and other regiments. You end up with an insanity such as measuring the profit of a university department by counting the number of publications by its members, as though all publications are of equal worth, which is pure whiffles.

Profit in its monetarist sense ought to indicate the surplus gained in the market-place. But what can profit mean in a privatised utility that has had its debts written off? Profit, used by a barely competitive near-monopoly, indicates no more than an over-extraction of charges. A

rogue dentist could well make a bigger profit by over-extraction of teeth. The dentist is supposed to be a professional, and therefore concerned with more than simple profit. (Tell that to the lawyers.)

As a domestic buyer of such necessities as water, telephone, electricity, gas, public transport and so on, I find over-extraction by those utilities nearly as painful as that of the dentist. When they use these "profits" to justify inordinate increases for their chief executives, they are making a childish linguistic mistake, as well as trying to pull the wool over our eyes. What anybody finds to do with a salary that big beats me. But that is another kettle of whiffles.

Since the rise of capitalism and the market economy, profit has become the narrowest of the nest of words including benefit, advantage, favour and gain. All it means in its roots is to advance, improve, go forward. But there are more ways of improving than any dreamt of in the philosophy of the market-place, or even in the mercantile manderings of G7. What is a man profited, if he shall gain a rise of 200 per cent, and lose his own soul?

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

I made the mistake of going for a walk along the Embankment yesterday morning. The Thames was a shimmer in the early sunlight, dull would be of soul, my God look at the size of that lorry, and so forth. Then the American couple spotted me. They had, I expect, spilled down from a Strand hotel to walk off their full English breakfast, for which they had come to London because a sausage on a plate in an American restaurant leads to social ostracism.

Did they want their photograph taken? Catch up out there. They wanted themselves videotaped on their camcorder. They also wanted to wait until a boat came down the river to give the background some movement, but I explained that all our trade these days was carried out by the SS Invisibles.

We did the filming and then the lady in the team asked me something that I had thought was part of American tourist mythology, one of those apocryphal stories that is considered more fun than the real thing. She asked me about cricket. Honestly. Not the rules, but, "this thing with the South Africans". I told her to buy today's *Times* and rushed off to Wapping.

Good morning, ma'am. My name is Peter and I'm your writer for today. As a way into this complicated matter of the South Africans and cricket, the South African Englishmen and cricket, let us start with a quiz question favoured whenever South Africans

gather to conduct a quiz. Who was the first South African to score a century on his Test debut? Answer: Kepler Wessels. For Australia.

Wessels went to Australia when the South Africans were ejected from international cricket because of apartheid. He played better than 20 Tests for the Aussies but is now a South African again, so will perhaps be playing for them next year. Against Australia.

Foggy, isn't it? Then there are Robin Smith and Allan Lamb. For some years, when commentators referred to "the English batting", this is who they meant: Smith and Lamb. Likewise, the present English bowling consists of Philip DeFreitas (born: Dominica) and David Lawrence (born: Gloucester — got you there).

Smith comes from Natal, which is a predominantly English-speaking province of South Africa. Lamb comes from the Cape, which is mixed English and Afrikaans. Smith sounds, in name and voice, more or less like an Englishman. Lamb spits lark this. Both play for England, but Lamb has fallen from favour this summer, so perhaps he could go back to South Africa, now that it has fallen into favour.

You will also have heard of Graeme Hick? Impressive, although we don't actually use phrases like "great white hope" any more. Hick is from Zimbabwe and has spent seven years qualifying for England. Unfortunately, during this time he seems to have forgotten how to bat, but there is a greater misfortune: in

the very summer that Hick has qualified for England, but faces being dropped because of poor form, he now finds that he could have been playing for South Africa, a country within walking distance of Zimbabwe.

That is one of the reasons we English love cricket: it is full of irony. We do not talk much about the other reason, which is that it is full of hypocrisy. This will be well illustrated in the first England versus South Africa match post-banishment, when a vast crowd of anti-apartheid campaigners (including me) will welcome on to the field a truly cosmopolitan team with black men in it.

Then South Africa will take the field. The team will either consist entirely of white men, or it may include one black chosen on merit (who will then be written off as a token), or it will include several blacks, chosen in order to demonstrate that cricket in South Africa is multi-racial.

The problem being that it isn't, not as a natural phenomenon in the way it is in the West Indies, although I will shake a black fist bowler called Shakes Grootboom, whose first name will ensure him a place on the Association of Tabloid Headline Writers will want to know why not. But one bowler doesn't make cricket black any more than Joe Bugner made British heavyweight boxing white. You know Joe Bugner: born in Hungary.

Well there you are: cricket explained. Not easy, but it could have been worse. You could have asked me about Zola Budd. Have a nice day.

Shadow of the bomb

Neil Kinnock's announcement that he has allowed his CND membership to lapse was the cause of much soul-searching among his shadow cabinet colleagues yesterday. Almost half the Labour front bench is believed to retain membership of CND, whose aims are now totally at odds with official Labour policy. Among them are such close Kinnock colleagues as Bryan Gould. "He's definitely still a paid-up member," said Jill, his wife and secretary.

So, too, is Margaret Beckett, one of the stars of Labour's party political broadcast this week, which highlighted the orthodoxy



of her economic views, but did not draw attention to her views on defence. Jo Richardson, shadow minister for women, is not only a member but a CND vice-president. Ann Clwyd also remains a member. The office of the usually outspoken John Prescott, who was among those who rebelled against Kinnock when he won a single-vote victory on defence on Labour's National Executive Committee last October, was for once



reticent. "We don't know if he is a member," said a spokesman. "It will not be among our priorities to ask him." Other known recent CND supporters who seemed reluctant to be drawn on their continued affiliation included Robin Cook and Frank Dobson.

Jack Straw, however, has followed his leader's example. "In answer to the McCarthyite question, 'Am I or have I ever been a member of CND?', I can say I used to be but have since left," Michael Meacher and Martin O'Neill, the defence spokesman, have also lapsed, although one member of the front bench defence team remains a professed CND supporter. Roland Boyes says: "I am still a member, but I don't think people want us to comment on this."

With Labour supporters of CND claiming that the organisation still has almost 100 fully paid-up MPs, Kinnock has some way to go before Labour can be said to have learnt to love the bomb.

London's Royal Court theatre tried again last night to stage the Double Wedding after the first performance earlier this week turned into a wash-out. The production, featuring Rose English, the alternative comedienne, requires part of the stage to be transformed into an ice-rink. The generator broke down, the ice melted and the show was called off before the waves began to lap over the front row of the stalls.

Direct route

Id actors never retire, they simply go on to direct. Anthony Hopkins, at the age of 53, is still in the prime of life, or fame, with *The Silence of the Lambs* having made him everyone's favourite cannibal — but the Welshman is off to Scotland next month to make his debut as a director at the Edinburgh festival. Dylan Thomas: *Return Journey*, will in some ways be a substitute for a long-standing but unfulfilled ambition.

"For years, I wanted to play Dylan Thomas in either a play or a film, but never had the chance," Hopkins says. When he saw a recent performance by Bob Kingdon, another Welsh actor who had devised his own show about Thomas, Hopkins hit instead on the idea of directing. "He was really impressive," Hopkins says. "A few months later I ventured a suggestion that I would like to help out if he needed an objective 'other eye' and he agreed." Hopkins has clearly enjoyed the experience, and has no plans to go gently into that good night, he is already planning to direct a second show, about Truman Capote, next year.

Cost-cutting

The G7 summit may be extravagant by London standards — the event, it is estimated, will cost the British taxpayer some £7 million — but in these recession-hit times will it be as grandiose as the bashes put on in recent years by the French and Americans? Jeremy Varcoe, Britain's summit co-ordinator, promises "a workmanlike and efficient environment". To keep costs down anything to be eaten or drunk by delegates will be sponsored. The cultural high point at Buckingham Palace, with music by James Galway and a military band, is unlikely to be quite as

grand as the concert in the full Versailles tradition laid on by Francois Mitterand two years ago. As for poor President Gorbachev, who went to great lengths to ensure his seat in London, he will have to sit the evening out at the Soviet embassy. Because G7 is off, yet G8 he is not on the guest list for the Palace party.

● Terry Fields, the MP for Broadgreen, Liverpool, may not be too pleased to see his first prison visitor. Walton prison is in the neighbouring constituency of Peter Kilfoyle, victor of the Walton by-election — during which Fields was conspicuous by his absence. Showing no hard feelings, the local MP promises to be first in the queue. "We will have plenty to talk about," says Kilfoyle in a manner that might just persuade Fields to pay up quick.

Faces familiar

Edon's little known private collection of "leaving portraits" goes on rare public exhibition next week at the Dulwich picture gallery in London. The collection started in the 18th century when it became the custom for boys who were leaving the school to give portraits of themselves to the headmaster. On Wordsworth's principle that the child is father of the man, the interest lies in showing great men as callow youths at the outset of glittering careers.

The tradition has been revived in the current century and a dozen boys have been painted in the last decade. A number, including those of Jonathan Noakes, son of the royal painter Michael, and Jacob Rees-Mogg, son of Lord Rees-Mogg, will hang alongside what the exhibition publicity calls "their notorious predecessors" — one way of describing 18 prime ministers, countless bishops, numerous diplomats, and assorted philanthropists.



THE HOUSING PUZZLE

This week, the rich and famous have joined the poor and homeless on London's streets, sleeping in a cardboard box to raise money for those who have no home. Today, Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, will announce a reform of the leasehold system, giving leaseholders the right to buy their freeholds through a new system of commonhold. These two fragments form part of the same puzzle. Is a picture emerging from the jigsaw of the government's housing policy?

In the first two Conservative administrations, the most successful piece of that policy was giving tenants the right to buy their council homes. Since 1979, well over one million have been sold. In the property boom of the 1980s, some people gave the right-to-buy policy almost single-handed credit for transforming skilled working-class voters into Conservatives. Labour, though reluctant at first, had eventually to concede that council house sales were a vote-winner. Encouraging owner-occupation was not enough. Skill shortages in the late 1980s showed how rigidities in the housing market could damage labour mobility. The recent combination of rising interest rates and unemployment has both paralysed the housing market and led to a rise of 140 per cent in mortgage arrears and 150 per cent in repossessions last year. Home ownership is no longer seen as an unqualified boon.

Moreover, though 67 per cent of homes are now owner-occupied, compared with 55 per cent in 1979, still a third are lived in by people who are too poor or have too unpredictable an income to afford a mortgage, or simply prefer the flexibility of renting. The government's Housing Act of 1988 was addressed mainly to them. It had two aims: to encourage housing associations to replace local authorities as the main providers of low-cost housing for rent; and to reverse the decline in the private rented sector, which has fallen from 90 per cent of housing at the turn of the century to less than 10 per cent now. The aims were worthy, but neither hit its target — initially, at least.

STIMULUS BY SANCTIONS

President Bush's lifting of trade sanctions against South Africa will do little to help that country's economy — ironically less than his decision not to lift financial ones. The Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 was self-servingly selective, influenced by America's steel, coal, farm and textiles lobbies. It merely challenged South African exporters to find new markets, as many did. The financial sanctions by contrast squeezed the South African economy hard, notably those under the Gramm Amendment which banned new investment and required the US to block access to loans by the International Monetary Fund. Most foreign credits dried up. Capital flight in the second half of the 1980s was limited to 30 billion rands only by the imposition of strict foreign exchange controls. To service foreign debt, Pretoria has had to maintain tight monetary policies to keep a balance of payments surplus.

These constraints remain. Do they really hurt? The irony is that Mr Bush has probably hit the right balance for South Africa's own economic health. Trade sanctions, as even the African National Congress has concluded, have had little effect on South Africa's steadily more healthy export performance. They have hit labour-intensive industries and thus black workers. Ending these sanctions should at least give a fillip where employment has been hardest hit.

At the same time, the continued enforcement of monetary discipline will do anything but cripple the economy. South Africa's business and financial community have hated the experience. But these sanctions have shielded them from the curse of Third World countries (one of which South Africa still is), namely unrestricted international credit. Ending the sanctions would have deprived the Federal Reserve board of its best excuse for prudence and made it much harder to keep rising inflation and unit costs under control.

This control, not easy credit lines, is the

The first crashed upon the twin rocks of tenant apathy and local political antipathy. Council tenants were wary of handing their estates over to housing action trusts, which were intended to improve the housing stock and then to offer tenants the choice of buying or renting. After initial aversion Labour councils have started to come round. In Hull tenants, encouraged by their council, have voted to hand their estates over to "housing action trusts". Liverpool and Waltham Forest may soon follow suit. This in turn may help the housing associations, who have fast run out of money.

The latest proposal by the housing minister, Sir George Young, is for private buildings to be let and managed by the public sector with right of repossession and sale remaining with the landlord. While this may not do much for the homeless of London — themselves subject of a determined drive to induce them into new hostels — it is at least a step in the direction of the public-housing sector being for those in genuine destitution rather than in that vague category of "housing need".

Housing was always the bugbear of enthusiasts for labour mobility. The lesson of recent years is that a steady trickle of government and market-related activity is at last bringing the rental market alive. Though the inclusion of rental companies in business expansion schemes offered some boost, landlords were wary of offering even "assured shorthold tenancies" for fear that an incoming Labour government would reintroduce security of tenure. Now the Opposition has helped by promising that a free-market private rented sector would continue free under Labour.

Most help has come from the market itself. Those who cannot sell homes have to let them. Estate agents' windows and newspapers' columns are full of rental offers. Legislation may have painted the picture on the jigsaw box, but it is the market that is ensuring that the pieces come together.

key to sound long-term investment. Precisely because it is underdeveloped, South Africa's eagerness for IMF loans is understandable. Blacks workers desperately need infrastructure and see in inward investment the route to quick jobs. They also expect such investment, linked to political reform, to cut South Africa's economic inequalities.

Foreign credits are the route to long-term disaster. Sanctions have strengthened South Africa's industrial base, encouraged import substitution, increased the relative value of labour against capital and accustomed businesses to lean profits. Of course every developing state needs investment, but it must be able to pay for it. South Africa has to build up a larger pool of skilled workers. Its productivity is low, under-employment is soaring and real wages in the formal sector are unrealistically high. A burst of capital-intensive foreign investment is just what it does not require.

The World Bank recently pointed out that what the Third World most needs is not debt but trade. Next week's G7 should acknowledge this, though it is unlikely to act on any such acknowledgement. Trade with South Africa should benefit the most labour-intensive parts of the economy, agriculture, coal and tourism in particular. Unable to build up debt, South Africa must thus concentrate on increasing trade and the ratio of exports to gross domestic product.

Private capital formation will remain scarce, irrespective of sanctions, as long as political uncertainty exists and doubts persist over the ANC's economic interventionism. Meanwhile sound money and export-led growth must have priority. The "burden" of financial sanctions has fastened South Africa to virtue's rock. Whether deliberately or by the fortuitous conjunction of foreign moralising with economic reality, Mr Bush has probably saved South Africa from the fate Western bankers have visited on so many other states.

UP THE ENGLISH

Next week's summit in London will need simultaneous translations into German, French, Japanese and English, and later — as Mikhail Gorbachev has almost no English — into Russian. But the summit language barrier no longer represents the wider world. The human race is rapidly coming down from Babel. There is now one golden rule for ambitious bureaucrats, executives and servants in every continent: learn English.

Lower down the summit's talking pyramid, where officials get to grips with detail, English will almost reach that long-term goal of international visionaries, a universal language. Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, it is said, partly owes his job as Soviet foreign minister to his ability to speak English. Hans-Dietrich Genscher learnt English in his respectable French, but the others are unlikely to allow him: they will want to study his English pronunciation. The study his English pronunciation. The study his English pronunciation. There is an international snobbery about English no less intense than the domestic variety.

But international English is not a language in which phrases like "any old" or "getting to grips" are welcome. When English is on a world stage, the first rule is to avoid all idioms, figures of speech and jokes. To adapt Noel Coward, Brussels or Norfolk.

The English language's claim to be the world's voice is based partly on luck — the British empire had more people in it than

the French — and partly on America's postwar pre-eminence in commerce, technology and entertainment. English has displaced French as the language of diplomacy, even emerging as the unofficial first language of the European Community. English has been a safe political answer to irksome linguistic rivalries. Former Warsaw Pact countries, angrily crossing Russian off their list of compulsory school subjects, have substituted English even where, as in Hungary, history or geography might suggest German. Meanwhile English, the universally preferred second language in Soviet schools, is sweeping the Russian steppes.

The three EC foreign ministers in Yugoslavia mediated in English. The 28 nations in the allied coalition in the Gulf fought in English. The French contingent even switched their press briefings to English when they thought they were not getting enough media coverage. For all the efforts of the French Academy, the French know they have lost this battle.

The 450 million foreigners who speak English as their second language — double the number ten years ago — and the 1,000 million still learning it, owe most to the British Council, a once flaccid organisation which now operates in 90 countries; and to the BBC World Service. England may now have little else to offer the world but its language. But that should not be underrated. Mr Gorbachev may yet find English can do for the unity of his country what it once did for India. He is welcome to borrow it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Putting arms pledges into practice

From the Chairman of CND
Sir, I am happy to see the five permanent members of the UN Security Council urging that the Middle East is declared an area free of weapons of mass destruction (report, July 10). I would be even happier to see this declaration substantiated with clear policies as to how it is to be achieved — and extended beyond the immediate area.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is the major international agreement over nuclear weapons, has its own safeguarding mechanisms and powers of search through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Those powers have been exercised, notably in Iraq during the Gulf war, and it is clear that they are not sufficiently thorough-going. The IAEA must be made far stronger, both in terms of resources and expertise, and in terms of international good will.

However, adherence to the NPT has to go beyond this if it is to be genuinely effective in an area as war-torn as the Middle East. Nuclear proliferation is not only "horizontal" — i.e. across states which did not formerly possess nuclear weapons — it also operates "vertically", by nuclear-armed states upgrading, replacing and adding to their existing nuclear stocks.

One of the first and most important steps which Britain and the other members of the UN Security Council should take is in addressing their own vertical proliferation. Britain may have signed the NPT,

but the Polaris nuclear submarine system and the Trident system which is planned to replace it form a ready-made justification for any state which intends to acquire its own nuclear weapons.

In addition, the escalation which Trident represents, and the British government's refusal to include its own nuclear weapons in any international arms negotiations, contravene the NPT's commitment to pursue arms negotiations in good faith.

The promise by Security Council members to be more careful about selling other weapons of mass destruction needs to be substantiated rather than appear as a vague expression of good will.

Britain is the world's third largest arms manufacturer, and exports weapons to over 20 states. An effective arms-export register and controls over all arms sales — under the administration of the United Nations — would do more to prevent unnecessary bloodshed than any number of the post-facto

agreements which have recently been seen on arms sales to Iraq, Yugoslavia and any other area which is abruptly deemed to be "unstable".

The whole issue is just too urgent — we must see these well-meaning proposals consolidated and effectively implemented as soon as possible.

Yours etc,
MARJORIE THOMPSON,
Chairman,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7,
July 10.

of our report, we included these words:
Nobody in Hong Kong can escape the uncertainties of the future... The minority who reject the draft agreement do so either because they can never accept reunification with Communist China or because they are bitter about the consequences for themselves as British Dependent Territories Citizens. The majority who accept it do so chiefly because they regard reunification as inevitable and are relieved that the terms of the draft agreement are as good as they are.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK NAIRNE,
Yew Tree, Chilton,
Charbury, Oxfordshire.

From Lord MacLachlan of Beach
Sir, Sir Alfred Sherman implied that in 1984 it was unnecessary to have agreed to return to China the ceded territory of Hong Kong Island and part of Kowloon when the lease of the New Territories (92 per cent of the colony) runs out in 1997. But the ceded territory had become completely integrated with the New Territories and for a host of reasons could not have stood up as a separate unit, let alone against Chinese opposition.

Sir Alfred claims that the joint declaration was not a treaty and not binding. Sir Geoffrey Howe, then foreign secretary, covered this in the Commons on December 5, 1984: The joint declaration and its annexes constitute a legally binding international agreement. As the Chinese foreign minister recently told the standing committee of the National Peoples Congress in Peking, the joint declaration is a form of international treaty. It has the same force in international law and is legally binding.

Both parties subsequently registered the joint declaration with the United Nations, like any other binding international agreement.

Yours faithfully,
MACLEHOSE
(Governor of Hong Kong, 1971-82),
Beach, Maybole, Ayrshire.

From the Headmaster of Repton School
Sir, I was delighted to see your recent article (Sport, July 4) recognising the excellence of Repton School's tennis players, but disturbed by your reference to a "tennis scholarship programme".

I would like to make it clear that we do not give sports scholarships — the only scholarships available are for academic or musical achievement. The success of the school in sports, and particularly tennis, is solely due to the parents' desire to send their sons and daughters to a school where they will benefit from every encouragement, and first-class coaching and facilities.

Your article rightly points out that the attraction of Repton for some of the country's top tennis players is the ability to train and play to a high standard while not sacrificing their academic future.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. JONES, Headmaster,
Repton School, Repton, Derby.

From Mr and Mrs David Terry
Sir, You are right to say that more and better tennis facilities are needed (leader, July 8). But we could also do far more with what we already have.

Opposite our house are four perfectly adequate tennis courts belonging to a comprehensive school. On Sunday afternoon, while we watched two young Germans contest the Wimbledon final, seven or eight 14-year-olds climbed over the high fence surrounding the locked courts, at no little personal risk, in order to play tennis, dubbing each other with names of their tennis heroes, such as Edberg, Becker, Agassi, as they did. After about an hour, the head teacher arrived and they were ordered off.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TERRY,
MAILEY TERRY,
28 Hill Grove Crescent,
Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

From the Director of Friends of the Earth
Sir, The four local water companies should be commended for having objected to the proposed waste tip at Pen-y-bont. Pollution prevention should be the paramount consideration. This site is fit for the disposal of only of inert waste.

A report on Shanks and McEwan's waste-disposal plan, by a

consultant hydrogeologist, states that "mathematical modelling of the site has shown that extensive contamination of groundwater in the vicinity of the site will occur". It continues, "contaminated seepages will threaten the river Dee."

These conclusions, which followed meetings between the consultant and experts employed by Shanks and McEwan, formed the basis for our objection in 1989 to the company's planning application.

The company's exercise of its automatic right of appeal, despite the mountain of informed opposition to its plan, has forced the local council to allocate scarce resources to defend its decision. To prevent the appeal procedure being used to overload the planning control system, the grounds for one should first have to be established in order to justify a full hearing.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GEE, Director,
Friends of the Earth,
26-28 Underwood Street, N1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

'Golden goodbyes' and top pay rises

From Mr C. R. C. Wilson
Sir, Mr Hitchcock (July 6) misses the point. Salary consultants are certainly paid to produce remuneration packages which attract and keep suitable candidates. But the issues are different.

Is it prudent business for a director to negotiate a package where personal gain is dependent on the company making a profit, and where the extent of that profit is partially determined by the ability to keep the workforce pay low?

Is it sensible for a director to negotiate a remuneration package which, when the company is incompetently run, even so removes that director from office with a handsome golden goodbye?

I accept that a remuneration package is designed to attract and keep the best; but what has happened to UK company management systems where the "best" know for a fact that regardless of results, their financial future is nevertheless assured?

The issue is the UK habit of treating employees in a noticeably different way from management. Our top management attitudes and judgment are bad.

It is bad practice that directors be remunerated with golden goodbyes. It would be bad practice if workers were paid off for shoddy work. It is bad practice for directors to negotiate an 8 per cent pay rise with a work force and simultaneously accept vast pay increases for themselves.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILSON
(Chief Executive),
Enterprise Corporate Finance Ltd.,
41 Paradise Walk, Chelsea, SW3.

From Mrs J. Steward
Sir, Mrs Rae Linnert's letter (June 28) describes too well the painful process by which a shareholder may put forward a resolution to other British Gas shareholders.

I do not think that the procedure is as arduous for members of the

Nationwide Anglia Building Society, but it does seem rather pointless even to try. The final sentence of the board of directors' response to the only member's resolution to appear in the notice of the annual general meeting is:

Members should be aware that this resolution, if passed, would not be legally binding upon the board, in the context of their general duty to manage the society in the interests of all the members.

In other words, if a member goes through the procedure, if the resolution is then passed, the board will do as it pleases anyway. So much for the democratic process!

Yours sincerely,
J. STEWARD,
7 Essex Road,
Watford, Hertfordshire.

From Mr J. M. L. Stone
Sir, Mrs Linnert's comprehension of what is required to galvanise a shareholding body is, in part, mistaken; and there is no reason why disgruntled shareholders in any company should not do as did the shareholders in the Burmah Oil Company Limited in 1975 and thereafter.

The Burmah Shareholders Action Group, of which I was honorary treasurer until 1983, raised some £90,000 from shareholders to obtain legal advice, and to pay for advertising, public relations and printing. The lack of action by shareholders in most cases where short-term indignation is manifested can be attributed, quite simply, to the short-term nature of the indignation.

The undertaking outlined by Mrs Linnert is by no means impossible for a group of shareholders to organise and she is totally mistaken as to the requirements for shareholders to attend "an annual meeting in Birmingham on a Thursday afternoon in August". Proxies will do quite nicely.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. L. STONE,
13-15 John Adam Street, WC2.

A savers' charter?
From Mr Philip Chappell
Sir, Michael Meacher (July 5) correctly draws attention to the level of commission and charges on personal pension products. Indeed, his criticism should be more wide-ranging and cover the full range of financial services.

The quick remedy to excessive charges is full, timely and proper disclosure, based on one simple question — how much of the investor's money is actually put to work for his benefit? This is an issue which the financial regulators have continued to duck, from a mixture of paternalistic concern ("no one would buy if they knew the truth") and actuarial smoke-screen ("the product is so complicated that the charges cannot be calculated").

The first argument is just laughable; the second there should be a robust response. If the product is too complicated to explain to the consumer, it is too complicated to sell to the consumer; ban it.

But the long-term pensions solution is not to follow Mr Meacher

with a return to the bureaucratic stranglehold of the state earnings related scheme (Serpa) or the employers' rip-off of occupational schemes. Charges and costs on personal pensions are trivial compared with the Achilles' heel of occupational schemes, the barriers to job mobility which they create and their robbery of the early leaver.

Excessive charges are a by-product of an over-complicated savings market, with the unholy alliance of the Inland Revenue and the Occupational Pensions Board conspiring to defeat the politicians' best intentions. So scrap the tax breaks for pensions, scrap the contribution limits, scrap the demand for savings plan managers, and restore the primacy of the direct, personal investor.

Chancellor Lawson started down this route; perhaps Chancellor Lamont could now work alongside his neighbour by developing a "savers' charter", based on the three pillars of simplicity, fiscal neutrality and personal choice.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CHAPPELL,
22 Froggall Lane, NW3.

Confusion in Bucks
From Mr C. W. Pringley
Sir, Perhaps insertion of the word "or" could remove Mr McWilliam's misgivings (July 5) over the Royal Mail's sorting of his address.

Yours etc,
CLIVE PRINGLEY,
The Old Chapel, Aldfield,
via Ripon, N. Yorkshire HG4 3BE.

From the Leader of the House of Lords
Sir, Your leading article of July 6, comparing the extensive left in the Labour party to a many-headed hydra, is both timely and accurate. Labour's response to this threat has been far from Herculean.

In January last year, Dave Nellist, MP, issued a press release supporting a campaign of illegal non-payment of the community charge and a demonstration organised by the so-called All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation. The Labour leadership had eventually to acknowledge that this was a front organisation controlled by the Militant Tendency.

No action was taken by Neil Kinnock against the 28 MPs, including 25 members of the more than 30-strong Campaign Group of Labour MPs, who endorsed that campaign. Mr Nellist, a member of that group, has recently been nominated by them for a place on Labour's national executive committee.

Members of the Campaign Group share many positions with the Militant Tendency, apart from illegal non-payment of the community charge. They strongly support nationalisation of the "commanding heights of the economy". They oppose Nato and British participation in it. They were entirely hostile to our role in the Gulf war, and they fully backed the 1984-5 Scargill strike.

Many Campaign Group MPs also share Militant's desire for the security services to be closed down, and both organisations are totally opposed to the expulsion of extremists from the Labour party. It seems, therefore, a trifle unfair to victimise the Militant-sympathising Liverpool MPs, when so many of Mr Kinnock's backbenchers are barely distinguishable from them.

Yours faithfully,
WADDINGTON,
House of Lords.

Heavy paperwork
From Mr J. K. Saunders
Sir, As a new small investor I have just discovered the meaning of "portfolio". Having invested £15,000 in one of the country's largest, best-known and most respected insurance companies I received a total of 54 pieces of paper for three policies.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN K. SAUNDERS,
3 Sandhill Drive, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Schubert to a tortured strain

DONALD COOPER



Haunting: Juliet Stevenson (Paulina) and Michael Byrne (the doctor)

recent past. Paulina (Juliet Stevenson) was one such victim, subjected to electric torture and degrading abuse; and when Roberto (Michael Byrne) gives her husband a lift after his tyre blows, she recognises in his voice the suave menace of the doctor who raped her and played Schubert as background music to her torture.

Arming herself with a gun, Paulina puts Roberto on trial and endows a confession from the man who may or may not be the one who has scarred her mind. Engrossing from its swiftly mood-building start to the remarkable finish, working on several layers of tension that include the cliffhanger of whether her mind is to be trusted, Dorfman's play leaves yet another question hovering in our minds: to what extent does it matter if the accused is innocent and made to lie if the victim thereby finds redemption from her torment?

Lindsay Posner's taut direction is like a landscape where the actors can explore towering passion and cavernous depths. In the playing between Stevenson and Paterson, the subtleties of sentences left unfinished and overlapping words reveal a marriage charged with tenderness and alarm. Stevenson's own performance is transfusing: natty, outraged, sturdy, delicate, fierce and laughter, the expression of a woman treading the knife-edge towards or away from sanity. A master work.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE
Death and the Maiden
Royal Court Upstairs

WHEN one tyranny is succeeded by another, the question of what to do with the former tyrants is simply answered: captured leaders are shot and their brutal underlings re-employed to continue the business of raping and torturing dissidents. But if it is a democracy that takes power after a tyrant's overthrow, the answer is not so simple. Where is the line to be drawn between retribution and reconciliation? For whom and for what crimes should there be amnesty?

This insistent problem is finding expression in a season of double-bills with the general title "Cross References". The plays have been jointly commissioned by London International Festival of Theatre '91 and the Royal Court, with the involvement of the National Theatre studio, and in each night's programme one of a choice of four half-hour plays is followed by Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*.

Dorfman writes of his native Chile in the aftermath of the dictatorship. His characters are a lawyer, his wife and a doctor. Except for the brief, telling epilogue, the events take place at a beach house on the night that the lawyer Gerardo (Bill Paterson) is asked to investigate the crimes of the

Braham Murray's production is lavish in resources and vague on cultural identity. After some time and much irritation we realise that the characters' mixture of accents — mid-European, Bronx, British — signifies some supra-national state. Totalitarian black-uniformed policemen with a Scottish commander, English news-casters and a community of broken-down English, starved, beggarly Italian flower-seller, greedy Italian financier, and his cocky American daughter — they all fall flat between fantasy and satire.

In a long first half lacking dramatic urgency, the state threatens to take over the miraculous apparatus. The storyline runs tentatively through such events as the appearance of Hamlet, the materialisation of the ageing woman's ideal lover, and the arrival of the girl whom the scientist has advertised for in a newspaper, sight unseen, according to her astrological components. The Phantom of the Opera is the organist at the wedding

conducted by St Peter, draped in his fisherman's nets, who satisfies both Jewish and Catholic criteria alike.

Peter Muller's original book sets individuality, creativity and imagination against the encroachments of the state. In English it emerges as mawkish and obvious. The eclectic cast by Lesdoo Tollevy hardly helps, ranging from the woman's denunciation of long lines of life (faintly recalling Magda's great outburst in *The Corned*) to the jolly tarantella when the company giggles in delight at the dream machine, like listeners captivated by the magic piano in *Soldado*.

The score is best when most genuine, in slow rock ballads like the one to which the scientist's dead wife is resurrected two-and-a-half hours into the action. Carol Noakes's Bar-

bara Dickson-like voice is just right. Johanns Bryant's design is rich in technological wizardry, including a giant telescope. However, the production can do little with the banality. That the rich man's daughter will at some point round on him with "you didn't love mother — you can't love anybody" comes as no surprise, and the ending, where a wall of sound protects the dreamers from police attack ("unbelievable the bullets are springing back"), seems perfunctory.

And Sorbis is vigorous as the scientist but lacks the requisite singing voice. In *Bartholomew's* alcoholic failed actor gives the most interesting performance; but the prize for energy devoted to a hopeless cause goes to Frances Tomelty. She bashes out her blend of toughness and vulnerability with unremitting, all-mugging zeal. There are some embarrassments: a former Royal Shakespeare Company Fortin should be spared.

MARTIN HOYLE

MUSICAL
Doctor Heart
Royal Exchange, Manchester

THIS musical is a bit in Budapest where it has run for over two years in repertory with such successes as *Cats*. Trevor Peacock's English version has cut long speeches to the audience on matters which presumably mean more to Hungarians than to Britons.

The fairytale plot untwists sometime in the future. A physician has discovered how to make one's dreams materialise, starting with childhood heroes. The Balkans are fairly Americanised, to judge by the parade of Batman and Robin, the Last of the Mohicans and Dorothy in search of Oz, who outnumber poor Alice from Wonderland as the Queen of Hearts.

THEATRE

Webster
Old Red Lion, Islington

ROBERT David MacDonald's boisterous play about John Webster (he of *The White Devil* and *The Duchess of Malfi*) comes up to 14 actors on to this small stage at one time. The setting is an unspecified theatre space alongside the range of a Jacobean theatre, and at the Glasgow Citizens, where in 1983 the play was first seen, the cast presumably had more room in which to stride and to pose, for many of them are actors taring themselves up for the afternoon show.

Yet Jessica Tyrwhitt's set brilliantly turns the entire auditorium into a theatre, where costumes, masks and mirrors hang from every wall. A small-pane window cleverly cuts off a corner of the stage to hint at a passage on the other side, and stairs climb up to a third, curtained gallery leading to the imagined theatre beyond. The stage is sometimes packed with jostling thespians but the sense of a community busily at work is marvellously created. Actors, distraught manager, heady-eyed assistants are caught in a moment of crisis but somehow make sure that the show goes on.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE

Vermin
Finborough Arms, Earls Court

TO SEE a state of the kingdom allegory in Nick Barbridge's grimy misanthropic quintet set in "a derelict toy warehouse" would be easy. The author has two more plays in the same vein lined up. Following this study of homelessness in the lower depths of Europe's sixth richest city (Brighton), the trilogy will be completed by plays on alcoholism and long-term psychiatric patients released into the community. Wagner's *Ring* will seem like Ray Cooney in comparison.

Half-witted Brummie, satirically bullying Scot, vindictive Northern Irish Catholic and sympathetic punk are manipulated for no apparent reason by Brock, a homeless smoothie who does a smoking jacket for the odd joint like all Oxford men (for such he is).

Brock's fellow sufferers and victims have names like Rat (the Scot), Tom (a feine Ulsterman) and Tod (the half-wit; as in death, or on his own?). The girl is called Bun, perhaps as a motherly symbol of comfort, or perhaps because she spends much of the time hot and cross.

The names hint at *The Wind in the*

Willows, the world portrayed is a jungle. The characters play power games, fall into traps. Simple Tod innocently admits sexual impotence but regains respect by brandishing a knife. The terrifying Rat is toppled from dominance but returns, deceptively peaceable, to bring about the final tragedy. When these warring creatures work together, some interesting set pieces result: a mock DSS hearing, for example, to prepare a claimant for unsympathetic authority.

Here the satire is heavy-handed. Much else is overwritten; but raw emotion is certainly there, and plenty of anger is generated. If Barbridge can impose some discipline and shape on his sense of outrage he will emerge the more powerful for it. As it is, the Irishman's bitter recollection of growing up as a Catholic on a Protestant estate, anxious to be accepted, is more affecting than the play's violence, physical or verbal.

A success at the Brighton Festival, John Grant's production now has a mainly new cast. One survivor, Simon Harvey as the feeble-witted Tod, is outstanding, but the whole company plays with immense conviction. It scarcely needs such over-enthusiastic nudges in the ribs as bursts of Elgar or ironic hymn staging.

MARTIN HOYLE

Arts features, page 13

NEW RELEASES

ANDREI RUBLEV (12): Tolstoy's stunning fresco of an icon painter's life in medieval Russia, completed in 1968. Henry (071-537 9402).

HENRY: PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL KILLER (16): Chilling, by-the-way study of human depravity in Chicago. Director: John McLaughlin. Cannon Parkway Street (071-530 0831) Coda (071-72 4043) Metro (071-437 0751).

HUDSON HAWK (16): Car-burger Bruce Willis gets drawn into a plot to conquer the world. Primitives, dismal action-comedy with a low IQ. Director: Richard LeMay. Cannon: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Coda (071-352 5088) Odeon: Kensington (043 914555) Leicester Square (071-530 6111) Sava Cinema (071-722 5055) Wharfedale (071-352 5055).

KILL ME AGAIN (16): Bad girl Joanne Whalley-Kilmer lures steady private eye into a web of deceit. Expensive film noir homage by John Dahl with Val Kilmer. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-570 2536) Haymarket (071-539 1522) Tottenham Court Road (071-435 6146).

NOCE BLANCHE (16): Philosophy teacher faces for delinquent pupil. Dram, comedy, with pop star Verónica. Paredis. Director: Jean-Claude Brisson. Cannon: Piccadilly (071-532 5055) Coda (071-352 5055).

THE MALE (16): David and Goliath and male bonding through the American South-West. Slashing adventure from director Ridley Scott. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-570 2536) Odeon: Kensington (043 914555) Leicester Square (071-530 6111) Sava Cinema (071-722 5055) Wharfedale (071-352 5055).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (S) on release across the country.

Green (071-425 3522) Wharfedale (071-352 5055).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PERE (U): Epic of a father's journey through the French Revolution. Director: Yves Robert. Luminor (071-436 0891).

THE MAURICESSONS HUSBAND (16): A film tale of romantic obsession. Screenplay by the director of *Monsieur Hire*, Patrick Leconte. With Jean Rochefort, Anna Carina. Cannon Plaza (071-435 3443) Coda (071-352 5055) Metro (071-437 0751).

THE KING OF NEW YORK (16): Christopher Walken as a ruthless hoodlum with style. Energetic thriller that finally gets out of hand. Director: Abel Ferrara. Cannon Oxford Street (071-435 6146).

MISERY (16): Oscar-winning Kathy Bates as the number one fan tormenting a best-selling novelist (James Caan). Scripted by Stephen King's novel. Director: Rob Reiner. Cannon Fulham Road (071-570 2536) Odeon: Kensington (043 914555) Leicester Square (071-530 6111) Sava Cinema (071-722 5055) Wharfedale (071-352 5055).

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CHANNEL 4

BR faces £1m bill to take jolt out of 225s

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail will have to spend £1 million modifying the suspension on the new InterCity 225 trains to eliminate what some passengers have described as an appallingly uncomfortable ride.

Passengers have complained of acute "bouncing" as the trains enter and leave stations, and of a sharp "jolting" as they negotiate corners at high speeds, making the quality of the ride significantly inferior to old InterCity 125s.

Criticism has also been levelled at the reliability of the new service between London, Edinburgh and Glasgow after a series of cancellations and late arrivals which has tarnished the start of the new high speed service in the eyes of some InterCity customers.

The flaws in the train's suspension system were identified by rail engineers soon after the first trains were first tested in 1989. A project team was assembled to identify the causes of the difficulty, and a package of modifications to the suspension system has been drawn up.

David Rollin, the InterCity 225 project director, said the new trains were designed to provide as comfortable a ride at 140mph as the InterCity 125 provides at 125mph. But because the InterCity 225s will not be travelling at the faster speeds for some months, the suspension has turned out to be much harsher than expected.

Unlike continental high speed rail lines, where the track is designed for the train, InterCity is forced to design the train around the track because of the prohibitive cost of building new high speed lines. As a result, far more effort has to be spent adjusting the suspension systems of new trains to suit existing track conditions, Mr Rollin said.

Modifications to the sophisticated coach suspension systems, involving alterations to vertical, horizontal, and longitudinal movements have been carried out on two thirds of the InterCity 225 fleet, and alterations to the remaining coaches should be completed by October, Mr Rollin said.

British Rail has, however, defended the reliability and punctuality of the new service, insisting that with the exception of a few teething problems normally associated with the introduction of revised timetables, the new service has been "very encouraging".



Cutting a dash: Keith Bowman, a Suffolk farmer, plans to wear his "national dress" of bowler hat and pinstripes as the British representative at the international scything championships in Yugoslavia today (Nicholas Watt writes). Many competitors might be troubled by the fear of civil unrest as they make their way to the event at Ljubljana.

south of Belgrade. Mr Bowman, however, is more concerned about the heat. "I think the biggest danger to me will be a heart attack. It's well said the 90s over there and I will sweat like mad in my national dress. But I've taken the precaution of ordering a hat two sizes too big so I can squeeze in a sweat band." Competitors will have to mow an area of grass ten metres square. As Mr Bowman, aged 40, practised in a field at his farm near Haveringlast yesterday, he said: "I'm about to finish the job in 30 minutes but it'll be a hard job because the judges will be looking for how evenly you cut as well as speed. The key to successful scything is steadiness and stamina."

Expatriates mourn loss of Neighbours

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of British expatriates living in France have written angry letters to the BBC after several French cable operators stopped broadcasting BBC1 and replaced it with the corporation's new 18-hour World Service Television (WSTV) channel.

The Britons were annoyed because they could no longer watch BBC local news bulletins, Hollywood films, "soaps" such as *Neighbours* and big sporting events such as Wimbledon. Since April 15, they have had to make do with English language lessons, BBC-produced drama and comedy, worldwide weather reports and World Service television news.

John Davies, a retired Essex architect living in France, said: "I came out here three years ago, and like all Englishmen, I missed the BBC. I bought a decoder for £250 so that I could receive it and now they have suddenly changed it to something I'm not interested in."

Parisian cable operators, including Compagnie Générale de Video Communication and Communication Developpement, have received so many complaints from British expatriates that they have asked the BBC if they can have BBC1 back.

In an attempt to avert the crisis, the corporation will today dispatch Jeff Hazell, WSTV's director of sales and distribution, to Paris to persuade the local cable companies to stick with the new channel.

The BBC, which has also received complaints from expatriate viewers from Monaco, to Tuscany, insists that the service is highly popular with those viewers it is meant for — English-speaking foreigners.

Hugh Williams, WSTV's director of programmes, said: "It pleases the international audience and that's what counts."

Muslims die in air crash

Continued from page 1

way and "crashed in flames on the ground," the agency said. "All passengers perished."

Many pilgrims would have been poor Nigerians delighted that they had managed to make the trip to the holy sites at Mecca and Medina which good Muslims are duty-bound to make at least once in a lifetime. In Lagos, a government spokesman described the crash as a "national tragedy" and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia cabled his condolences.

Other aviation sources said the pilot reported "fire in the landing gear" and was advised to jettison his fuel and return, but the plane caught fire in mid-air. Witnesses saw smoke and fire coming from the plane as it came in to land and said flames shot hundreds of feet into the air as it crashed to the ground, scattering wreckage over a wide area. None fell on the airport's three runways, which continued to operate, according to airport officials.

One witness described the scene as a "medley of trailers, ambulances, fire brigades, cars. They are trying to put out the flames and pick up the remains of the bodies". Flight 2120 was bound for Sokoto in Nigeria and took off from Jeddah at 8.29 am, the agency said.

The Haj ended more than three weeks ago, but hundreds of thousands of pilgrims take weeks to arrive and depart, with many staying on to holiday and shop. This year's Haj was billed as the most successful in recent years by the Saudi authorities, who have spent vast amounts on the infrastructure around the holy sites to cope with the annual influx of pilgrims.

There were more than two million this year, many from Third World countries unused to air travel. To cope with the logistics, miles of underground air-conditioned walkways and hundreds of hotels and guest houses have been built.

The Saudi royal family, which describes itself as the custodian of Islam's holiest shrines and takes great pride in a successful Haj, viewed this year's pilgrimage

with particular trepidation, coming after the Gulf war and American forces still on Saudi soil. Until yesterday's tragedy, it passed better than expected, and was boosted by the arrival of more than 100,000 Iranian pilgrims after Tehran ended a three-year boycott.

Canada will send investigators to Saudi Arabia. "We are the country of registration and because of that we have to have someone on the team," said Maynard Brunet-Lalonde, of Canada's Transportation Safety Board.

Political sketch

Desperate search for the real Neil

MR KINNOCK was absent from PM's questions yesterday. They say he is lying low while the shock-waves after his about-turn on nuclear weapons, die down.

Or is it an about-turn? Not just Labour but the Tories, too, seem to be in two minds over this. The split showed when Sir John Farr (C, Harborough) asked the prime minister about this "sudden change" in Opposition policy. I looked over at the government benches. Half of them were nodding vigorously, amid a murmur of "hear, hear".

But the other half were shaking their heads. From them came a protest of "no".

The Tories, you see, want it both ways. They want to claim that Mr Kinnock is a man of so little principle that he will jettison anything, even previously sacred principles, to win votes. According to this view, Labour's policy really has changed, and they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

But the government also want to claim that the Opposition are wolves in sheep's clothing. According to this view, Labour are secret fascists, behind a mask of careful ambiguities constructed by Gerald Kaufman to reassure retired colonels.

According to this view Mr Kinnock would scrap Trident the moment he reached Downing Street: Labour are staying true to their principles but lying about the fact. And they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

In short, the Tories want to have their cake and eat it. They probably will. Quietly, the PM yesterday switched from asking "would you keep Trident?" (to which the new response is "yes") to "would you use Trident?" He received no reply.

While I was studying the confusion on the Tory benches, my counterpart on *The Guardian* (with a better view of the Opposition) studied Labour MPs as Sir John referred to their "sudden change". Some, he reports, were smiling with quiet satisfaction, some were scowling and shaking their heads, and the rest simply looked confused.

Labour, too, want it all ways. If Mr Kaufman's verbal contortions are to bring in new votes, as intended, then they are best promoted under the slogan "Look How Labour's Changed".

The problem is, some Opposition MPs think it has (these were nodding), some defiantly maintain it hasn't, whatever Kaufman says (these were scowling), and some don't honestly know what to think any more. These were the bewildered ones, still waiting for Mr Kinnock to tell them.

They may wait a little while yet. Rumour has it that the Leader of the Opposition is lying low abroad, while a number of other major shifts are effected. In for a penny, in for a pound: or (as they say in the Peter Mandelson Memorial Suite at Walworth Road) "you might as well be hanged for a Yankee as for a socialist faint heart."

According to early reports, after admitting that CND is not at all his cup of tea, Mr Kinnock's office are suggesting that he also had lurid black hair and that he is not Welsh. Apparently the ginger hair was an elaborate disguise while Kinnock was in his "Welsh phase", learning to know his enemy. He has never been to Wales except once, on a riding holiday. Mr Kinnock comes from a stockbroking family in Epsom. His wife is called Fiona. Tennis is his passion. He can't sing, hates leeks, and is switching his investments out of South Africa in protest against the advance of apartheid.

At present on a puma-shooting holiday in Paraguay, Mr Kinnock hopes to be back at the Commons next week.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Average poll tax rise held at £10

Continued from page 1

Commons before it rises for the summer recess. It will bring him into conflict with Labour authorities, who earlier this week called for an increase of 10 per cent or £4 billion. The RSG announcement is the first brick in the government's public spending wall for the following year. The tight nature of the local

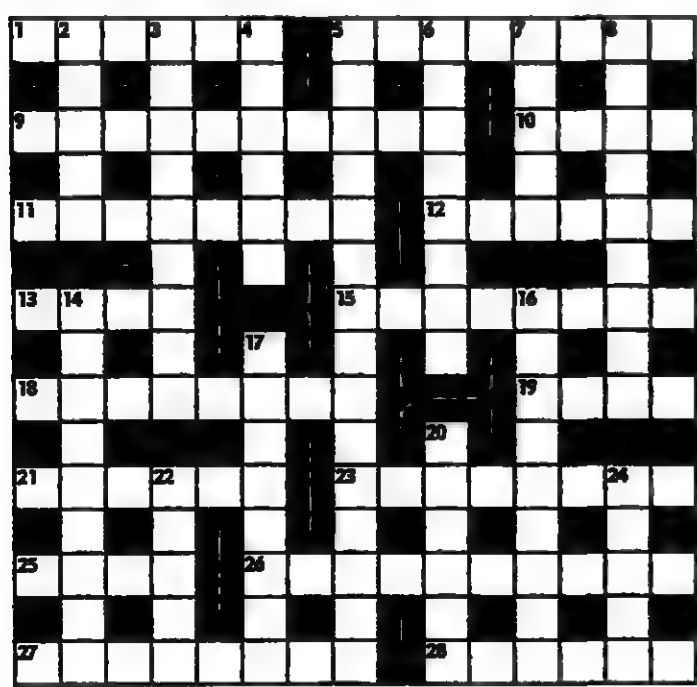
authority settlement suggests that the Treasury has set its face against a pre-election spending boom.

The sources said yesterday that the spending round was proving unusually "rough and tough", but denied that the "no growth" deal reached by the environment secretary amounted to a defeat for him. "Heseltine has no interest in

a spending binge," said one insider. With inflation projected to fall to less than 4 per cent next year, Mr Heseltine will also be able to argue that councils should have little difficulty meeting his stiff new targets.

A 4 per cent rise would mean an increase in cash terms in total local authority spending of about £1.6 billion.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,656



- ACROSS
- 1 High-flier ruined by exposure in Sun (6).
 - 2 Nonconformist churchman's back I protected from rain (8).
 - 3 Opposition is hesitant to reform (10).
 - 4 Arranger selecting odd pieces for composer (4).
 - 5 Frosty spell in unfriendly game (5,4).
 - 6 Characteristic tone in old instrument cut short (6).
 - 7 Charge for conversion as gas is offered, initially (4).
 - 8 Call artist a venomous creature (8).
 - 9 Strange sort of small house? Indeed, it was (8).
 - 10 Absence of authorization for retreat (4).
 - 11 Was mistress under success? Sounds like it (6).
 - 12 Specify drink — same again? (8).
 - 13 Architect leaves sewer after fall (4).
 - 14 Like a resistance force made up without ringleader (10).
 - 15 American statesman noted for his Canterbury relation (8).
 - 16 For example, miss a run (6).

DOWN

- 1 Censor accepts new section in poem (5).
- 2 They make up shower curtains artist at home put up (9).
- 3 "A man" finally solved her cryptic puzzle (6).
- 4 Maiden is under arrest? Jest the opposite — that's an error (15).
- 5 One making late appearance (it's in a TV broadcast) (8).
- 6 Raise millions to modernise the forces (5).
- 7 Singer, no pro, gets lot wrong (9).
- 8 One sort of bird — and another right outside (9).
- 9 Leaves without the slightest difficulty (5,4).
- 10 Small meal? It's hard to say (8).
- 11 Two fine Italian instruments you love in Rome (6).
- 12 Involved in begging, a minor? (5).
- 13 One in exaltation turned up round a village (5).

Concise Crossword, page 17

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

- KALUYUGA
a. Having beautiful shoulders
b. Injunctive modification
c. Universal derogatory
- SABRACANE
a. A slow, sensual dance
b. A slow-grip
c. A poisonous bivalve
- MATFELON
a. An escaped prisoner
b. Covered with fur
c. The greater longwood
- CRUSET
a. A goldsmith's crucible
b. An olive oil jar
c. A short crane

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

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- London & SE
C London (within M1 & S Choc) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford I 733
M-ways/roads Dartford I-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National
National motorways 737
Wales 738
Midlands 740
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North-west England 742
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WEATHER

Early rain over eastern and southern England will give way to drier weather with some sunshine. Wales and western England will have sunny spells and showers. Northern Ireland and southwest Scotland will be bright and dry at first but will become cloudy with showers. The rest of Scotland will be rather cloudy with further rain. Outlook: rain in the north and west, more sunshine in the south and east.

TEMPERATURES

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65

FORECAST

Yesterday: Temp: max 26 to 28, 27C (81F); min 6 to 8, 18C (64F). Humidity: 65 to 85 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 18. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 13.0 hr. Sea: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Wind: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Fog: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Ice: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Snow: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Hail: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Thunder: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Lightning: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Tornado: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Hurricane: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Typhoon: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Cyclone: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Monsoon: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. El Niño: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. La Niña: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Solar flare: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Asteroid: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Comet: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Meteor: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Planet: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Star: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Galaxy: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m. Universe: 24hr to 6pm, 1.0 to 2.0 m.

FORECAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0306 500 followed by the appropriate code.

FORECAST

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FORECAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0306 500 followed by the appropriate code.



FORECAST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
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Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65
Ammanford	27	SE	65

FORECAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0306 500 followed by the appropriate code.

FORECAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0306 500 followed by the appropriate code.

**WEEKEND
MONEY
TOMORROW**

PROFILE



At home, Sir David Lees is an obsessive power of law. At work, as head of GKN, natural instinct ensures the company runs smoothly, despite the recession. He talks to Gillian Bowditch

STUDENT CRISIS

Students face their worst financial crisis in years, with little hope of finding summer jobs to pay soaring debts, Liz Dolan writes

COMPENSATION

Fear of a Labour government is stopping investment groups putting money into new-style personal equity plans (Peps) announced in the last Budget, Lindsay Cook, Money Editor, reports

**Sidestep by
Major in
top pay row**

THE prime minister yesterday distanced himself from the latest row about big pay rises for top managers. Challenged in the Commons about the 181 per cent increase for Bryan Weston, Manweb's chairman, Mr Major said: "It's a matter for the companies and not for me." But he stressed that pay awards should "reflect what is reasonable". Sir Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Airedale) led Labour's attack.

He told Mr Major: "How do you explain the statement by the latest power chief to receive a big pay rise, Mr Weston of Manweb, that the government knew full well that his salary would soar?"

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8055 (-0.0170)
German mark 2.9453 (+0.0037)
Exchange index 89.5 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1928.4 (+10.3)
FT-SE 100 2510.5 (+2.1)
New York Dow Jones 2948.79 (+4.02)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 2293.92 (-183.38)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Lloyds 341 1/2p (+7 1/2)
Santander 57 1/2p (+7 1/2)
WPP 101 1/2p (+1 1/2)
Pearson 70 1/2p (+8)
Tarmac 220 1/2p (+8)
Turner 43 1/2p (+7 1/2)
Airtel 305 1/2p (+11 1/2)
WH Smith 30 1/2p (+1 1/2)
Unilever 73 1/2p (+6)
McCarthy 25 1/2p (+2 1/2)
Reuters 71 1/2p (+10)
Charter Comm 45 1/2p (+8)
Courtauld 43 1/2p (+7 1/2)
Park Foods 21 1/2p (+1 1/2)
FALLS:
Beazer 58p (-11 1/2)
Unilever 74 1/2p (-7 1/2)
Arcadian 75p (-7)
Tipton 47 1/2p (-5)
ADT 48p (-13 1/2)
Closing Prices...Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11 1/2%
3-month Interbank 11-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2%-10 1/4%
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5 5/8-5 5/16%
30-year bonds 9 5/8-9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.8055 \$: £1.8055
£: DM2.9453 \$: DM1.8330
£: Sfr2.5444 \$: Sfr1.5357
£: FFfr.9354 \$: FFfr.2145
£: Yen222.60 \$: Yen138.55
£: Index89.5 \$: Index88.8
ECU 10.68854 SDR 10.81113
ECU 10.68854 SDR 10.81113

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$368.25 pm \$368.30
Close \$368.25-368.75 (229.25-229.75)
New York:
Comex \$368.85-369.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July) \$19.20 bid (\$19.35)
Dated latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987=100)

Luxembourg admits it could not cope with BCCI fraud

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE government of Luxembourg, responsible for monitoring 180 banks that will be able to operate throughout the European Community, has admitted its systems could not cope with fraud and deception as alleged to have been discovered at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, whose main holding company was registered in the Grand Duchy.

Jacques Santer, the prime minister, said the problem with BCCI was that the regulatory authorities had been the victims of a deliberate deception. "This confirms past experience: whenever the authorities are

faced with organised criminal activity, the normal controls of a state based on law are insufficient to prevent deception. That is the price you pay for a state based on law."

But at BCCI was eventually uncovered by the Bank of England, although Luxembourg was responsible under international banking agreements. The Bank applied provisions of the Banking Act designed to improve information and control by using auditors to report problems and act as investigating agents for the bank.

Pierre Jaans, head of the Luxembourg monetary institute, confirmed that "we were not equipped for BCCI and it is keeping us very busy". Mr Jaans has a total staff

of only 40. He denied, however, that Luxembourg was not equipped to carry out its responsibilities in the single market, whereby banks authorised in one EC country will have a passport to operate in the others.

Mr Jaans said: "Generally, we can cope. The banks here are respectable. I see no relation between the number of bank inspectors and the efficiency of regulation."

Luxembourg contends that BCCI was a wholly special case because only a tiny proportion of its operations were there. Mr Jaans said changes in the law might be needed to prevent a holding company setting up in Luxembourg for operations

that were essentially elsewhere. Even this was denied by Mr Santer. The prime minister told the Luxembourg parliament that recent changes to the law and adaptations to practice could prevent a bank with the structure of BCCI being headquartered in Luxembourg, and that no changes were planned to tighten regulation or increase protection for creditors.

Doubts have arisen over the validity of the blanket insurance bond raised by BCCI through the Adamjee Insurance Company of Karachi, which would, among other things, cover fraud and theft by employees. Mohammed Chaudhury, managing director of Adamjee, said the cover had

automatically ended on the appointment of liquidators to BCCI. This is standard practice. It is not clear, however, whether any fraud by employees made before that date but not notified to the insurer before the liquidator came in would be covered, since policies vary on this point.

In London, Peter Thurston, who heads a team dealing with BCCI employee affairs for Touche Ross, the liquidator, wrote to most of the group's 1,200 British employees of an emergency hardship payment he hopes to make on Tuesday as an advance on their July salary. Employees who do not receive letters by Monday are being urged to ring the advice line on (071) 480-7766.

Inflation data should allow half-point fall

Bundesbank clears way for UK rate cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BY LEAVING its key lending rates unchanged, the Bundesbank cleared the way for Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to sanction a fresh cut in British interest rates to coincide with today's inflation figures.

A fresh cut should quieten the political and market clamour for easing the monetary reins to extract the economy from deep recession.

Although the pound ended below its DM2.95 mid-point in the European exchange-rate mechanism yesterday, City economists did not expect sterling's position to prevent base rates being lowered by another half point to 11 per cent.

John Major, who would have already seen the latest

inflation data, said yesterday that inflation would continue to fall. Forecasts for the retail prices index for June centre on an annual rise of 5.7 per cent, against May's 5.8 per cent.

The German central bank's decision to leave its interest rates as they were, in spite of inflationary pressures, came at the last council session chaired by Karl Otto Pöhl, the outgoing president.

As the session was the last before the bank's five-week summer recess, Michael Samuels, economist at Salomon Brothers, said Mr Lamont now had a "window of opportunity until August 15 to cut interest rates, possibly in two half-point falls". He expects the Bundesbank will tighten policy after its holiday.

While the Bundesbank left its discount and Lombard

lending rates untouched, it sought to underline its determination to keep policy tight, despite American calls for global easing, by narrowing the target growth range for M3, its broad money supply measure, to 3 to 5 per cent from 4 to 6 per cent.

But the German authorities had already made clear their M3 target was 4 per cent for this year, and the narrowing of the range leaves the mid-point unchanged at 4 per cent.

A Bundesbank statement said it would "continue to pursue monetary policies... in a way which closely limits price pressures from home and abroad and at the same time sets the monetary conditions for steady economic growth".

The German economy is estimated to have grown 5 per cent in the second quarter of this year, as the government continued to pump in billions of marks to rebuild eastern states.

Official figures for Germany's balance of payments moved back to a surplus of DM839 million in May from a deficit of DM568 million in April, reflecting a big capital account surplus.

Japan's trade surplus with the European Community rose by nearly 50 per cent to \$4.73 billion in June. The overall trade surplus widened to \$7.26 billion from a \$6.67 billion surplus in June last year.

Industry expects a 2 per cent price cut in interest rates now that inflation is heading down to German-style levels. John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Mr Banham said "I am convinced that the biggest problem we face is not private sector inflation, the original justification for high interest rates, or even incompetent management of British business. Rather it is lack of confidence in ourselves and in the future."

Asda spurns rights as profits fall

By MATTHEW BOND

ASDA Group, the supermarket company, had no rights issue, no chairman and no chief executive as it unveiled a 4.3 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £168.3 million.

The lack of chief executive had been expected. John Hardman resigned from that post a month ago and Asda is still looking for a replacement. The lack of chairman was not expected, given that Sir Godfrey Messervy, the former chairman of Lucas Industries, had replaced Mr Hardman. Yesterday, however, Sir Godfrey was still recovering from a mild heart attack.

The lack of a rights issue was also hard to forecast, as Asda's three competitors had collectively set £1.5 billion

worth of precedent. Asda finished its March year-end with net borrowings of £875 million, for gearing of 72 per cent. Kenneth Morton, a non-executive director, said: "We recognise that we have got a relatively high level of borrowings, but we're under no pressure."

Profits fell below the £170 million minimum forecast by the board a month ago after provision was made for the additional interest that will be paid if, as expected, holders of a low yielding convertible bond exercise a put option.

An unchanged final dividend of 2.95p gives a maintained total of 4.8p.

Rank slides to £96m

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

HALVED profits from film and television and a sharp increase in tax left Rank Organisation with barely enough earnings at the end of the six months to May 18 to cover a maintained interim dividend payment.

Pre-tax profits at the castles-to-caravans and video-to-office copiers group fell to £96 million (£137.6 million) and after a 45 per cent tax charge, compared with 34 per cent a year ago, earnings emerged at

11.3p (34.2p). The interim dividend was held at 10.25p. Despite debts of £1 billion, Michael Gifford, the chief executive, said the group's balance sheet was healthy. Gearing is thought to be a shade over 50 per cent.

Rank's film division was hit by poor video sales and a drop in orders for its film equipment. Profits plunged to £8.4 million (£17.1 million).



Pöhl: last meeting

Storehouse lambs break the silence

By ROSE THOMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS at Storehouse once stood at annual meetings bleating about the poor results like sheep in a slaughterhouse. Today, their mood is different.

Although still penned in by a spiral of declining profits, their challenges are increasingly well targeted. Outrage has been replaced by a determination eventually to compel their shepherds to open a gate to greener pastures.

Ian Hay Davison, firmly ensconced as chairman in place of Sir Terence Conran, has gained a little guile, however, in managing his unruly flock.

Yesterday's annual meeting, at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London, was notable for the civility and detail of both questions from the floor and answers from the board. But the message from Mr Hay Davison remains harsh: "It is

now inevitable that we will make a loss in the first half."

The second half was still impossible to forecast. Sales during the first three months of the current year were 8 per cent down on last year. The results of the second half would depend entirely on when the economy began to improve, and consumer confidence recovered.

The group, however, had been reduced from 11 businesses to a core of five, and stocks of summer goods were being ruthlessly cleared by discounting.

His shareholders knew all about that. B&S, the once-proud British Home Stores, looked like a bazaar, a poor imitation of C&A Modes, with permanent discounting, one declared.

"I can appreciate your comments," responded David Dworkin, chairman and chief executive of B&S. He certainly was not going to deny them. In 1988,

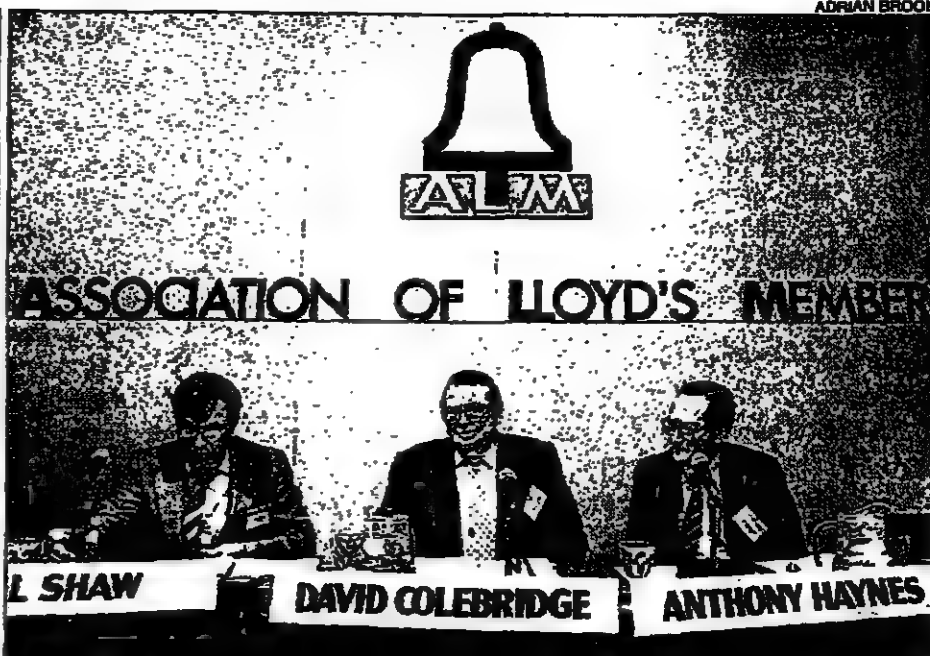
there were goods in the stockrooms that were four years old, the meeting heard. The directors were determined to avoid that at all costs, and discounts were the consequence.

The most dangerous attack came on the matter of salaries. Simon Blunt, a shareholder, noted the 63 per cent rise in directors' pay since 1986, while trading profits had slumped from £123 million to £21 million. Mr Hay Davison was quick on his feet. With the exception of Mr Dworkin, directors had taken a 10 per cent cut last year.

When it came to the vote, the re-appointment of three directors was approved on a show of hands, but dissenters were numerous.

And so they are likely to remain, until the day profits begin, once more, to rise.

Comment, page 23



The Lloyd's insurance market had another problem with its names yesterday...



...as David Colebridge, cops Coleridge, the chairman, was quick to point out

Lloyd's ponders what is in a name

LLOYD'S names, having been asked to bear losses of £510 million in a single year, could be forgiven for losing their sense of humour.

Yet David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's who admits having lost large sums of money himself, retains an ability to raise a chuckle. Commenting on underwriters, not the most popular people among Lloyd's members, he suggested one reason why losses had been so catastrophic was that "their private line to the Almighty has been cut".

Perhaps it was just as well Mr Coleridge, whose last appearance before names lasted four hours, could still look on the bright side. He arrived at the annual national conference of the Association of Lloyd's Members to find his name misspelled as Colebridge. Nothing personal: Antony Haynes, the association chairman, was billed as Anthony.

Neil Shaw's name was spelled correctly. A Lloyd's name since 1980 - "I have had good and bad experiences," he said, without disclosing his losses - Mr Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, was chosen to question Mr Coleridge on behalf of the 500 names at the meeting at London's Grosvenor House.

Both admitted to being apprehensive as the session got underway. Mr Shaw revealed that had the invitation arrived after the events of June, when Lloyd's announced record losses for the 1988 year, he would have declined.

Val Powell, the association's chief executive, was delighted Mr Shaw, a Canadian, had not withdrawn. "Mr Shaw is a well-paid professional, the head of a large multinational company. We could do with more like him," he said.

ADT price slumps by 130p

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SHARES in ADT, the security and car auction group, plummeted by 130p to 480p - a record low - after an assessment of lower profits reported by Laidlaw, which has 28 per cent of ADT.

Laidlaw said its profits setback was due to poorer results at ADT, for which Laidlaw has now accounted.

Investors were nervous ahead of an ADT statement last night that was expected to explain that it suffered lower profits last year, but that this was well known in the market, and the profits drop to which Laidlaw refers was not, therefore, new.

ADT is applying for a New York Stock Exchange listing. Under accounting rules, net earnings are shown after various write-offs, and turn out at 20 cents a share against \$2.15. The national fall further upset investors on both sides of the Atlantic.

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- Further increased investment in promotion of our brands to enhance strong position in market.

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Simon Redman, Chairman

	1991 (53 weeks)	1990 (52 weeks)	Increase %
Turnover	126,259	109,161	+16
Trading Profit	23,085	18,230	+27
Profit before tax	22,057	20,146	+10
Earnings per share	38.2p	34.1p	+12
Dividend per share	10.8p	9.8p	+10

GREENE KING PLC

Copy of the 1990/91 Annual Report can be obtained from The Company Secretary, Victoria Brewery, Poy U. Edwards, Salford, M6 6JL

Whatever happened to corporate governance? The phrase is ever present whenever City leaders gather to discuss the serious business of their responsibilities as shareholders in the nation's most important businesses. Yet in the case of Storehouse, the ill-fated BHS, Habitat and Mothercare retail operation, there seems little evidence that theory is being translated into practice.

Years after Sir Terence Conran stitched the three companies together, the misery goes on. Ian Hay Davison, the chairman, told shareholders there would be a loss in the first half year and made no promises for the final six months. For yet another year, investors face the prospect of little or no profit from well in excess of £1 billion of sales. Surely it is time for more radical solutions for a company that had little logic when it was cobbled together and has long since exhausted the patience of its owners?

As you would expect from financial heavyweights like Mr Hay Davison and chief executive Michael Julien, former finance

director at Midland Bank, the accounts are in good shape, with no net borrowings whatsoever. If the group cannot retail its way to respectable profitability, then shareholders might reasonably ask their board to unlock some value through disposals. At least the interest on the proceeds might improve matters.

It would be surprising if these thoughts had not occurred to the board of Storehouse. Its decision to keep the three main profit centres together tells its own story.

Institutions have been here before, when Woolworth was the sick man of the high street. The Paternoster reconstruction has paid off handsomely. Ironically, Woolworth, in its new guise as Kingfisher, might well be a strong bidder for some parts of Storehouse, especially the Mothercare children's clothing business.

Storehouse shares, once well over 400p, dipped below 100p

Time to call time at Storehouse

COMMENT

last month and the message is still that of jam tomorrow. Enough is surely enough.

1992 worry

The complacency of the Luxembourg authorities in the face of the collapse of their most controversial bank must be causing worry in Brussels and in the community's central banks. Investors would also be wise to note it for future reference in an era when the imprimatur of Luxembourg for financial institutions will formally be as valid as British or French equivalents.

The gist of prime minister Jacques Santer's studied reply yesterday was that the monetary watchdog assumed bankers were honest and could not be expected

to cope with fraud. This is not quite what the British investor is likely to mean by adequate financial regulation.

Fraud at BCCI, according to the Price Waterhouse report that spurred the Bank of England to act, was sufficiently widespread to make BCCI too rotten to be saved by cash from Abu Dhabi. Most of this fraud, however, seems to have been of the classic type — an attempt to cover up losses. The frauds stemmed from trading difficulties more than they caused them.

That is precisely what any bank inspector or supervisor should be trained to watch for and prevent. There was every reason for a bank with BCCI's spread of business to have troubles so any bank supervisor would expect to find them and judge them closely, even if they

did not appear in accounts prepared for public purposes.

Supervisors spend most of their time dealing with, advising, and, if necessary, warning, honest bankers. But honesty cannot be assumed. Luxembourg is a small country, but has a sophisticated financial centre and has been persuaded to tighten its procedures. If the result is so inadequate, the European passport will not be worth the paper it is written on and investors and depositors would be wise to stick to the institutions of their own governments or central banks are known to stand behind.

Tender trap

If commercial television has given rise to one memorable quote since it was launched in the Sixties it is surely the "licence to print money" phrase coined by the late Lord Thomson of Fleet. By an odd twist of fate, Lord

Thomson's company, Scottish Television, appears to be on the point of receiving a second licence on highly favourable terms.

STV took something of a gamble against the late entry of a rival in the blind franchise auction and decided to bid less than £1 million. The verdict of the market when the news emerged was a 14 per cent rise in STV shares, a gain which may be extended when the full import sinks in.

If the tender process goes to plan, STV is likely to fund itself spinning off cash at a great rate. If it chooses, the company may plough resources into programme making and become a significant network supplier or use the cash flow in other profitable ways.

Elsewhere, other companies may well have overbid for licences and find themselves under-resourced for the task of meeting the quality requirement and providing decent shareholder returns. It is unlikely that the much criticised blind process for awarding licences will emerge with any credibility left at all.

The beloved country cries out for new investment

THE path that beckons investors back into South Africa, unlike Alan Paton's "lovely road that runs from hope into the hills", is going to be a lonely and a bumpy one.

The enthusiasm that swept the Johannesburg Stock Exchange to fresh highs on Wednesday, as President Bush lifted America's five-year-old investment ban, has faded. And even those British and American groups that have long-standing SA connections are cautious about what, if any, fresh investment plans they have in the beloved country that cries out for capital injection and its former place in world trade.

The scars of sanctions and the widespread withdrawal of foreign investment funds, compounded by the shortage of skilled labour, will take time to heal.

South Africa may be back in the world of sport and American investors are now technically free to invest again in the land of diamonds and gold. But the continued denial of access to the International Monetary Fund, and the difficulties that will have to be faced in securing international loans — when needed — suggest SA's investment appeal will be restrained for a while.

Unemployment, especially among the black population, remains high. Inflation is still locked in at 14-15 per cent, and uncertainty about the economic shape of the "new" SA, over which the African National Congress will have a decisive say, remains.

In economic terms, SA is a half-awake Rip van Winkle, but when fully awake, her potential cannot be denied. The financial infrastructure is sophisticated.

Trade between America and SA amounts to almost \$3 billion a year and America remains one of SA's leading trade partners. American subsidiaries operating in South Africa had \$2.6 billion in assets there in 1981 — down to \$1.5 billion today, says Wayne Mitchell, executive director of the American Chamber of Business in Johannesburg.

And while none was legally forced to quit SA, since 1985



Waiting for South Africa's new economic dawn: Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk

out to local interests, and 130 remain. Coca-Cola, General Motors and Citibank said yesterday they had no plans to go back. Several American municipalities and cities continue to boycott companies that do business in, or with, South Africa.

In Britain, Standard Chartered was first off the mark on Tuesday when it announced it would open a representative office in Johannesburg on August 1. Four years ago, Standard Chartered pulled down its flag, sold its banking interests to local shareholders, and shook the dust of South Africa off its feet.

Other banks are following. Robert Fleming Holdings expects to offer a full merchant banking service by the year-end. Barclays, SG Warburg, Hambros and Morgan Grenfell may not be far behind. British groups that did not rush for the airport in the Seventies and Eighties as pol-

itical, economic and investment pressure made annual meetings uncomfortable, are adopting a "wait and see" attitude to further investment.

RTZ and Lonrho, the mining groups, have long held their respective investments in Palabora Copper and Western Platinum — both still useful profit earners. Two years ago, RTZ acquired Richards Bay Minerals when it took over BP Minerals. BAT, with a 59 per cent stake in SA Eagle, the insurance group, and 63 per cent in Ulico, the tobacco group, has also remained in the South African sun, as have Unilever, Hanson and a host of insurance companies.

The Johannesburg stock market, tenth in the world by capitalisation, is not trivial, though the average dividend yield on industrial shares of 2.75 per cent, and the average price/earnings ratio of 13,

does not make the JSE a steal. The astute should consider the leaders such as Anglo American, Barlows, SA Breweries, Rembrandt, too, the construction companies likely to share in the extensive national housing programme.

The potential attraction of other "new" territories, including eastern Europe, will be a strong pull on overseas investors' pockets, unless South Africa can demonstrate that its investment prospects are now as bright as her political ones.

Investment in South Africa will, however, not be a one-way street. Greater corporate activity can be expected from SA companies and businessmen anxious to strike up British partnerships through takeovers or significant investment stakes, now that South Africa is no longer a dirty word, and few would say no to a farm in Africa.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Food is the key to conquering Asda debt mountain

WHILE its three peers — Argyl, J Sainsbury and Tesco — are all using newly raised equity to finance further expansion, Asda Group is still paying the price for having pursued the alternative strategy of using debt.

Debt is something that Asda has an awful lot of. At the year end it had net borrowings of £875 million and gearing of 72 per cent — the seemingly immovable legacy of its £705 million purchase of 60 Gateway superstores two years ago. The level of debt was little changed from the year before and, without a rights issue or a significant sale and lease-back deal — both of which currently look improbable — is likely to be little changed in another 12 months.

The year-end level of debt may be little changed, but the interest charge has risen £55 million to £85.5 million, reflecting the full-year burden of carrying the Gateway debt compared with seven months of pain the year before. Although operating profits rose 16 per cent to £262 million, the higher interest charge affected pre-tax profits, which in the year to April 27 fell 4.3 per cent to £168 million, in line with the forecast the company made a month ago at the time

of the departure of John Hardman, the former chief executive.

While food has proved relatively immune from the retail recession, Asda's non-food activities, with the notable exception of the clothing range designed by George Davies, the ex-Next chief, have not. Operating profits at Allied Mappes, the furniture retailer, fell from £6.7 million to £1.6 million while Asda's 25 per cent stake in MFI contributed more than doubled losses of £4.2 million.

Food, therefore, holds the key to Asda's future. By the end of November all but three of the Gateway stores will have been successfully refurbished. Attention will then turn to the original chain, where 49 elderly but well-

located stores have been identified for up-grading.

Pre-tax profits of £180 million to £185 million look achievable, putting the shares, at 89p, on a price-earnings multiple of just over 8. Back on the buy list.

Rank

RANK Organisation's 45 per cent tax charge caught the market slightly off guard, but otherwise the interim figures only confirmed that the group is coping as well with the economic conditions as might be expected.

Other than in the film and television division, where profits halved, and the equipment manufacturing operation, driven into the red by recession, Rank's swings compensated for its roundabouts.

A busier winter holiday season offset a downturn in hotels, higher bingo profits almost made up for a lower return from the casinos, and improved Hard Rock Cafe earnings wiped out a shortfall at the Rank Ahnert caravan parks. Rank Xerox's contribution was almost unchanged.

What is encouraging is that Rank hardly appears to have lost any customers. They are all simply spending less.

The figures were adjusted for the Mecca purchase, which, Rank says, is not to blame for the downturn. It is responsible for a large chunk of the £1 billion debt, which might be more worrying were most of it not fixed at below 10 per cent. Gearing is just over 50 per cent.

The tax hike reflects the sub-normal charge last time after the preferred stock redemption, and a provision for unrelieved advanced corporation tax. It left earnings barely covering the unchanged interim dividend. Second-half profits are traditionally stronger, and Smith New Court looks for £385 million before tax, to produce 49p of earnings, for a price/earnings multiple of 13.5. But at 664p, the shares look high enough for now.

SURELY THE BANK THAT RESTRUCTURED LANVIN MUST BE FRENCH?

Certainly the bank responsible for the restructuring of Lanvin is French. It is in fact Midland Bank S.A., based in Paris and listed on the Paris stock exchange. Its M & A team, now part of Samuel Montagu France & Cie is a significant force in corporate finance.

Its highly experienced team handled over thirty transactions valued at FF 9.2 billion during 1989-1990. Lanvin needed to strengthen its financial resources and Midland Bank S.A. was asked to help. Apart from bringing in new design skills, the bank secured the sale of Lanvin's head office for the highest price per square metre ever paid for property in Paris. The M & A team advised on both domestic and cross-border transactions and has advised Storehouse on its disposal of Jacadi. RJR Nabisco on the disposal of Udelin, and Drescher Bank on the purchase of a controlling interest in Banque Internationale de Placement.

Additionally, Midland not only has one of the leading property teams in France which sees most major domestic property transactions, but is also a leading operator in spot foreign exchange in Paris, and one of the largest option traders on the MATIF.

Yes, Midland Bank S.A. is also part of Midland Group, merchant banking network, brought together under Midland Montagu, with Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited being the focus in the UK. As such, Midland Bank S.A. is able to draw upon the Group's substantial resources.

It's yet another example of the power of our network. So if you're looking for business opportunities in Europe, think how it could contribute to your success.



THE UNITED STRENGTH IN EUROPE

- SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO B.V. Amsterdam
- MIDLAND BANK plc Athens
- TRINKAUS and BURKHARDT KGaA Düsseldorf
- MIDLAND MONTAGU OSAKAPANEKI Helsinki
- MIDLAND BANK A.S. Istanbul
- MIDLAND MONTAGU FININTER S.A. Lisbon
- SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LIMITED London
- MIDLAND BANK plc Madrid
- EUROMOBIILARE SpA Milan
- MIDLAND MONTAGU A.S. Oslo
- MIDLAND BANK S.A. Paris
- MIDLAND MONTAGU BANK Stockholm
- GUVERZELLER BANK AG Zürich

MIDLAND GROUP

FOUNDED BY MIDLAND BANK PLC, A MEMBER OF THE M & A NETWORK. INTERESTS IN EUROPE WITH MIDLAND BANK PLC'S M & A TEAM. ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE M & A TEAM UNDER THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Well-placed for sunshine offer

IF MICHAEL Ashcroft, head of ADT and the only man to lure the Princess of Wales to an evening of greyhound racing, fancies a new job he could do worse than speak to his old friend Michael de Groot. Ashcroft, who saw shares in his security to car auction group fall 130p to 480p yesterday, may be keen to reply to de Groot's advert in the *Royal Bermuda Gazette* recruiting a manager for his private island. De Groot, the ex-chairman of Ladlaw, the Canadian group that has a 28 per cent stake in ADT, recently bought Perots Island off the coast of Bermuda for \$7 million. But he will still be able to pay his new manager well: de Groot's fortune is estimated at \$430 million. Ashcroft could be the ideal man for the job. He knows Bermuda well, ADT is based there, and held its annual shareholders' meeting there last month.

NEVER mind the bombs going in, what about the booze coming out? Security guards confiscated more than 50 bottles of wine and 15 baskets of flowers from shareholders leaving the annual meeting of Youngs, the brewer, at the Grosvenor House in London yesterday. One shareholder says: "Containers of culinary and umbrellas have disappeared at previous agms."

Fast bank rate

TIMES are almost as hard for the banks as for their customers, but Girobank appears a trifle hawtish in its policing of business accounts that have strayed into the red. Maggs Bros, the Mayfair bookshop patronised by the Royal family and specialising in rare books, manuscripts and miniatures, received a curt letter from Girobank yesterday pointing out that its account was 73p overdrawn. "It would be appreciated if you could clear this overdraft immediately," writes a J Griffiths from Girobank's corporate banking branch. John Maggs,

the business's proprietor, says the account was all but closed in any case. He is now endeavouring to raise the cash.

Silken lining

AFTER the success of its glasnost tie, modelled by President Bush at the Malta summit with President Gorbachev, The Rack has produced a tie for next week's London summit. The struggling retail group was approached by the foreign office to produce 11,000 ties and scarves for inclusion in the delegates' goody bags. The ties are navy with red, white and blue stripes and discreet summit logo. However, times are clearly hard at the foreign office. It ordered only 200 of the ties in silk for top delegates, the rest have to make do with polyester.

Voice over matter

The Prince of Wales may soon be talking to inanimate objects as well as plants if Matsushita, of Japan, has its

way. The group has developed the first video tape recorder that can respond to the human voice. The video talks back by asking questions about the channel, date, time and programme required. Matsushita also plans to have us nattering to our fridges, cookers and CD players, but we may have to learn Japanese first.

Heartbreak hotel

POPJOYS, one of Bath's most famous restaurants and a victim of the recession, is proving so hard to sell that Christie & Co, the estate agent, has cut the price from £325,000 to £150,000. The restaurant and the Christopher Hotel, one of Bath's oldest hotels, are for sale because of the receiver-ship of Forth Investments, the parent company, in June. The price of the Christopher is now half its original £450,000 valuation. Difficult to believe that hotels were changing hands for silly prices only 18 months ago.

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

This document is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of the International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited ("the London Stock Exchange") pursuant to section 114 of the Financial Services Act 1986. The issue of this document has been authorised by the Council of the London Stock Exchange without approval of its members.

This document contains a summary of the information which is available to the public in connection with the proposed placing and offer of the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") and should be read in conjunction with the Listing Particulars which contain full details of the history and business of the Company. The directors of the Company are satisfied that this document contains a fair summary of the key information set out in the Listing Particulars. Application has been made to the Council of the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Company, issued and now being issued, to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that definitive share certificates will be despatched on 26 July 1991, the Ordinary Shares will be admitted to the Official List on 29 July 1991 and that dealings will commence on 29 July 1991. The application for the Ordinary Shares now being offered will open at 10.00am on Friday, 19 July 1991 and will close as soon thereafter as Kleinwort Benson Securities Limited may determine. Definitions set out in the Listing Particulars shall also apply in this document unless the context requires otherwise.



Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number 2140840)

Placing and Offer

by

Kleinwort Benson Securities Limited

of

8,451,547 Ordinary Shares of 5p each
at 290p per share
payable in full on application
of which 5,172,414 shares are being placed
and 3,279,133 shares are being
offered to the public

Share capital following the Placing and Offer

Authorised	Issued and now being issued, fully paid
£ 1,650,000	£ 1,157,712
Number 33,000,000	Number 23,354,234

The Ordinary Shares now being offered will rank in full for all dividends and other distributions hereafter declared, made or paid on the Ordinary Shares of the Company.

Indebtedness

At the close of business on 18 June 1991, the Company and its subsidiaries had outstanding borrowings of £10,000,000, comprising secured bank loans repayable in one to five years of £6,750,000, after five years of £1,250,000 and an unsecured bank loan of £2,000,000, less purchase obligations and leasing commitments of £488,000, and also had contingent liabilities of £2,410,250 in the form of counter indemnities (further details of which are set out in paragraph 4(c) of Part XII of the Listing Particulars) given to two banks in respect of guarantees given by the banks on behalf of certain Directors and senior employees.

Save as disclosed above and apart from intra-group indebtedness, at the close of business on 18 June 1991 neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries had any loan capital outstanding or any other borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowings, including term loans, bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances (other than normal trade bills) or acceptance credits, any mortgages, charges, lease purchase commitments or obligations under finance leases, guarantees or other material contingent liabilities.

AVAILABILITY OF LISTING PARTICULARS

Listing Particulars are included in the Companies Pledge Service available from the London Stock Exchange. Copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained by collection only during usual business hours up to and including 13 July 1991 from the Company Announcements Office at 46-50 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 3DF and during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturday and public holidays excepted) up to and including 25 July 1991 from any of the Company's business addresses in the UK and from:

Kleinwort Benson Securities Limited
PO Box 560
21 Fenchurch Street
London EC3P 3DB

National Westminster Bank PLC
New James Department
PO Box 33
153-157 Commercial Road
London E1 2DB

Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc
Lowndes Lambert House
33 Fenchurch Street
London EC3P 3HL

National Westminster Bank PLC
New James Department
27 Old Broad Street
London EC2N 1HQ

and at the following branches of National Westminster Bank PLC:

Birmingham
Colmore Centre
103 Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 3NS

Bolton
80 George Street
Bolton BL42 3JZ

Glasgow
14 Blythwood Square
Glasgow G2 4AQ

Leeds
8 Park Row
Leeds LS1 1QS

Manchester
55 King Street
Manchester M60 2DB

Newcastle-upon-Tyne
87 Grey Street
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE1 6ER

Norwich
45 London Street
Norwich NR2 1HX

Swindon
84 Commercial Road
Swindon SN1 1NU

Kleinwort Benson Securities is a member of the London Stock Exchange and the Securities and Futures Authority Limited.

12 July 1991

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

1. The Company is offering to the public by way of a placing and offer of the Ordinary Shares of 5p each ("Ordinary Shares") of the Company, issued and now being issued, in accordance with the requirements of the Council of the London Stock Exchange and the Republic of Ireland Limited ("the London Stock Exchange") pursuant to section 114 of the Financial Services Act 1986. The issue of this document has been authorised by the Council of the London Stock Exchange without approval of its members.

2. This document contains a summary of the information which is available to the public in connection with the proposed placing and offer of the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") and should be read in conjunction with the Listing Particulars which contain full details of the history and business of the Company. The directors of the Company are satisfied that this document contains a fair summary of the key information set out in the Listing Particulars. Application has been made to the Council of the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Company, issued and now being issued, to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that definitive share certificates will be despatched on 26 July 1991, the Ordinary Shares will be admitted to the Official List on 29 July 1991 and that dealings will commence on 29 July 1991. The application for the Ordinary Shares now being offered will open at 10.00am on Friday, 19 July 1991 and will close as soon thereafter as Kleinwort Benson Securities Limited may determine. Definitions set out in the Listing Particulars shall also apply in this document unless the context requires otherwise.

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PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

The following terms should be read in conjunction with the Application Form:

1. Interest in the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") may be applied for in the following circumstances:

- for more than 100 shares, but not more than 1,000 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares;
- for more than 1,000 shares, but not more than 10,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares;
- for more than 10,000 shares, but not more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares;
- for more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 100,000 shares.

2. Interest in the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") may be applied for in the following circumstances:

- for more than 100 shares, but not more than 1,000 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares;
- for more than 1,000 shares, but not more than 10,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares;
- for more than 10,000 shares, but not more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares;
- for more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 100,000 shares.

3. Interest in the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") may be applied for in the following circumstances:

- for more than 100 shares, but not more than 1,000 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares;
- for more than 1,000 shares, but not more than 10,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares;
- for more than 10,000 shares, but not more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares;
- for more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 100,000 shares.

4. Interest in the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") may be applied for in the following circumstances:

- for more than 100 shares, but not more than 1,000 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares;
- for more than 1,000 shares, but not more than 10,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares;
- for more than 10,000 shares, but not more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares;
- for more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 100,000 shares.

5. Interest in the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") may be applied for in the following circumstances:

- for more than 100 shares, but not more than 1,000 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares;
- for more than 1,000 shares, but not more than 10,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares;
- for more than 10,000 shares, but not more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares;
- for more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 100,000 shares.

6. Interest in the Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (the "Company") may be applied for in the following circumstances:

- for more than 100 shares, but not more than 1,000 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares;
- for more than 1,000 shares, but not more than 10,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares;
- for more than 10,000 shares, but not more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares;
- for more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 100,000 shares.

KEY INFORMATION

The following information should be read in conjunction with the full text of the Listing Particulars from which it is derived.

Lowndes Lambert is a long-established international insurance broker which provides a comprehensive range of insurance broking services through its headquarters in London, its 18 regional branches in the UK and its 24 overseas offices in 11 countries. It is currently ranked in the top 20 in the world in terms of broking revenue. The Group is not involved in the operation of members' agencies or managing agents at Lloyd's.

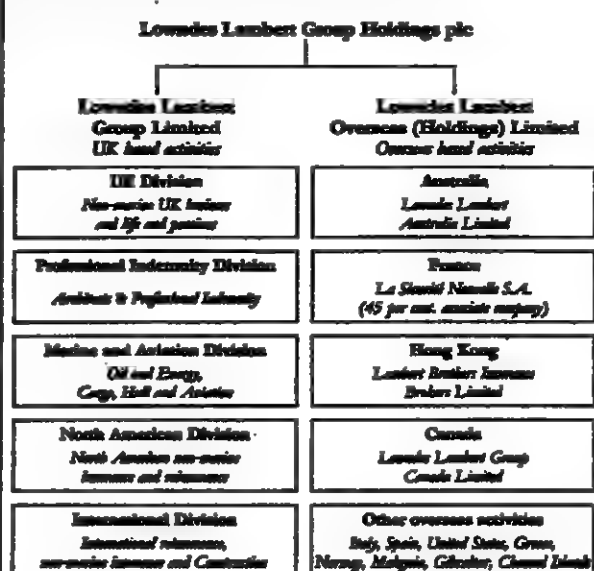
History

Lowndes Lambert can trace its origin back 150 years to the coal factoring business set up by Francis Devereux Lambert which developed into shipping and insurance broking. The business was acquired by Hill Samuel & Co. Limited in 1968. In 1979, Richard Shaw joined the Group as Chief Executive and initiated a major reorganisation of the Group.

In June 1980, 55 members of the management, together with institutional investors led by Cusworth Investments and supported by Alan Pearce Associates and ECI Ventures, effected a management buy-out of Lowndes Lambert. Since the MBO, the most significant of the Group's acquisitions have been Chandler Hargreaves Limited and the Australian broking business of Bain Clarkson.

Divisional activities

The Group's revenue is generated from its activities as an international insurance and reinsurance broker servicing the needs of a wide and varied range of clients. The five United Kingdom divisions trade as agents for Lowndes Lambert Group Limited, the main operating subsidiary. All Group companies operate in close co-operation with each other to give clients access to a comprehensive range of services. The structure of the Group is as follows:



Key business strengths

The Directors consider the key business strengths of the Group to be:

- the breadth and quality of its international client base. The Group acts as insurance broker to a number of major international companies, although no single client accounts for more than two per cent of the broking income of the Group;
- the broad spread of its insurance broking services. The Group's wide range of business has enabled it to avoid a dependence on specialist and sometimes volatile sectors of the insurance market;
- the skill and experience of its management. In an industry where there is a relatively high turnover of staff, a considerable proportion of senior employees have been with Lowndes Lambert for many years;
- the motivation of Directors and staff arising from a significant and continuing interest in the equity of the Company. The continuing involvement of senior management and staff in the equity of the Company following flotation underlines their commitment to the Group;
- the proven ability to generate growth by new business development and successful acquisitions.

Prospects

Over the last few years the insurance market has seen generally decreasing premium rates. The Directors believe increased reinsurance rates and the recent heavy losses suffered by insurers are beginning to be reflected in insurance premium rates. The Directors consider that premium rates have in general stabilised and, in some classes of business handled by the Group, are now increasing. If the increase in premium rates becomes more widespread, as is anticipated by the Directors, both income and operating profits will benefit.

The Directors believe that there are considerable opportunities for increasing business by supplying a wider range of insurance products to existing clients and by winning new business. Due to the broad spread of its business, the Group competes against most other brokers, from the largest international groups to high street brokers. The Directors believe that, despite the high level of competition, the Group is well placed to gain market share.

Trading in the current year has been encouraging. The Directors believe that with its established client base, spread of business and its ability to win new clients, the Group is well positioned to continue its profitable growth.

Trading record

The information in the following table has been extracted from the Accountants' Report set out in Part XI of the Listing Particulars.

	1991	1990	1989
Turnover	£7,000	£7,000	£7,000
—Group companies	43,328	37,434	28,307
—Group share of associated companies	10,057	8,699	6,182
Net profit	53,385	46,133	34,489
—Group companies	6,626	7,060	4,491
Total income	60,011	53,193	38,980
Group profit before taxation	7,356	5,075	3,194
Earnings per share—basic	21.3p	14.0p	8.7p
—fully diluted	20.1p	13.2p	8.2p

The Group has reported increased broking income each year since the completion of its reorganisation in 1981. During this period the Group has experienced trading in all phases of the insurance market cycle. Notwithstanding a particularly soft market in the last few years, the Group has significantly increased its earnings during this period. The increase in total income from £39 million in the year ended 31 March 1989 to £60 million in the year ended 31 March 1991 reflects both strong organic growth and the acquisition of Chandler Hargreaves and the Australian broking business of Bain Clarkson in the year ended 31 March 1990.

Interest and other income principally arises from income earned on monies held on behalf of the insurer and is an integral part of the broker's remuneration.

Offer statistics

Offer price	290p
Number of Ordinary Shares being offered	8,451,547
Ordinary Shares in issue following the Offer	23,354,234
Market capitalisation at the Offer price	£67.7 million
Pro forma 1991 earnings per share (1)—basic	21.4p
—fully diluted	20.5p
Price earnings multiple at the Offer price on the basis of pro forma 1991 earnings per share (1)—basic	13.6 times
—fully diluted	14.1 times
Notional net dividend per share (2)	11.5p
Notional gross dividend yield at the Offer price (2)	5.3 per cent
Notional dividend cover on the basis of the pro forma 1991 basic earnings per share (2)	1.86 times

Notes

- The basis of calculation of the pro forma 1991 basic and fully diluted earnings per share are set out in Part XII of the Listing Particulars.
- The notional net dividend is based on what the Directors would have expected to recommend in respect of the year ended 31 March 1991 had the net proceeds of the Offer been available for the whole of that year.

Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc

Application Form

Offer by Kleinwort Benson Securities Limited of 3,279,133 fully paid Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc at 290p per Ordinary Share, payable in full on application

Before making any application to acquire shares you are recommended to consult an independent financial adviser authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. You may only apply for shares in the proportions stated in Note 1 of the accompanying guide.

1. I/we offer to purchase:

Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc (or any smaller number of shares for which this application is accepted) at 290p per share on the terms and subject to the conditions set out herein and in the Prospectus dated 10 July 1991 and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc.

For which the amount payable is:

2. £

3. Signature: _____ Dated: _____ 1991

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

4. Mr, Mrs, Miss or title: _____ Forename(s) (in full): _____

5. Address (in full): _____

Postcode: _____

6. ☐ I/we have your cheque/bankers' draft, made payable to "National Westminster Bank PLC" and crossed "Not Negotiable—Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings plc" for the amount in Box 2.

Fill in Boxes 6 and 7 only when the application is being made jointly or on behalf of more than one person. The first or sole applicant should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4. Insert in Box 6 the names and addresses of the second and subsequent applicants (up to a maximum of three additional applicants), each of whose signatures is required in Box 7.

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

6. Mr, Mrs, Miss or title: _____ Forename(s): _____ Mr, Mrs, Miss or title: _____ Forename(s): _____ Mr, Mrs, Miss or title: _____ Forename(s): _____

7. Signature: _____ Signature: _____ Signature: _____

You must send the completed Application Form by post, or deliver it by hand, to National Westminster Bank PLC, New James Department, PO Box 33, 153-157 Commercial Road, London E1 2DB.

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

[illegible]

COMMODITIE

1991 High Low Company	Per Day		Open PM	PM P/E
	High	Low		
136 170	170	170	170	170
137 171	171	171	171	171
138 172	172	172	172	172
139 173	173	173	173	173
140 174	174	174	174	174
141 175	175	175	175	175
142 176	176	176	176	176
143 177	177	177	177	177
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STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES									
Nkt Rates for July 11									
Ambrosiano	3.2601-3.3190	3.6127-3.6164	3-4p	1% -11p					
Barclays	3.2601-3.3190	3.6127-3.6164	3-4p	1% -11p					
Copenhagen	11.2637-11.1023	11.2695-11.1023	10-11p	25-25p					
Dublin	1.0582-11.1023	1.0582-11.1023	20-14p	30-20p					
Edinburgh	3.6164-3.6470	3.6164-3.6470	3-4p	1% -11p					
London	253.67-255.43	253.67-255.43	75-154p	213-203p					
Lisbon	184.07-184.85	184.25-184.85	15-22p	61-73p					
Madrid	218.42-218.28	218.42-218.28	10-11p	2-5d					
Montreal	1.8154-1.8236	1.8147-1.8243	0.60-0.60	1.77-1.80p					
New York	1.9505-1.9535	1.9505-1.9535	0.70-0.70p	1.80-1.82p					
Osaka	11.4467-11.4467	11.4467-11.4467	1-11p	2-13p					
Paris	0.9598-0.9592	0.9598-0.9592	1-11p	2-13p					
Stockholm	10.6240-10.6225	10.6306-10.6274	1-11p	2-13p					
Switzerland	22.05-22.13	22.05-22.13	3-4p	1% -11p					
Vienna	20.06-20.07	20.06-20.07	3-4p	1% -11p					
Zurich	2.8490-2.8559	2.8502-2.8559	3-4p	2-13p					
Premiums (p/c. Discount = ds.									
MONEY RATES (%)									
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Discount Market Rates: O/Night high 15% Low 10									
Treasury Bills (O/N) 2p 10m 10 3m 10 6m 10 12m 10 15m 10 18m 10 21m 10 24m 10 27m 10 30m 10 33m 10 36m 10 39m 10 42m 10 45m 10 48m 10 51m 10 54m 10 57m 10 60m 10 63m 10 66m 10 69m 10 72m 10 75m 10 78m 10 81m 10 84m 10 87m 10 90m 10 93m 10 96m 10 99m 10 102m 10 105m 10 108m 10 111m 10 114m 10 117m 10 120m 10 123m 10 126m 10 129m 10 132m 10 135m 10 138m 10 141m 10 144m 10 147m 10 150m 10 153m 10 156m 10 159m 10 162m 10 165m 10 168m 10 171m 10 174m 10 177m 10 180m 10 183m 10 186m 10 189m 10 192m 10 195m 10 198m 10 201m 10 204m 10 207m 10 210m 10 213m 10 216m 10 219m 10 222m 10 225m 10 228m 10 231m 10 234m 10 237m 10 240m 10 243m 10 246m 10 249m 10 252m 10 255m 10 258m 10 261m 10 264m 10 267m 10 270m 10 273m 10 276m 10 279m 10 282m 10 285m 10 288m 10 291m 10 294m 10 297m 10 300m 10 303m 10 306m 10 309m 10 312m 10 315m 10 318m 10 321m 10 324m 10 327m 10 330m 10 333m 10 336m 10 339m 10 342m 10 345m 10 348m 10 351m 10 354m 10 357m 10 360m 10 363m 10 366m 10 369m 10 372m 10 375m 10 378m 10 381m 10 384m 10 387m 10 390m 10 393m 10 396m 10 399m 10 402m 10 405m 10 408m 10 411m 10 414m 10 417m 10 420m 10 423m 10 426m 10 429m 10 432m 10 435m 10 438m 10 441m 10 444m 10 447m 10 450m 10 453m 10 456m 10 459m 10 462m 10 465m 10 468m 10 471m 10 474m 10 477m 10 480m 10 483m 10 486m 10 489m 10 492m 10 495m 10 498m 10 501m 10 504m 10 507m 10 510m 10 513m 10 516m 10 519m 10 522m 10 525m 10 528m 10 531m 10 534m 10 537m 10 540m 10 543m 10 546m 10 549m 10 552m 10 555m 10 558m 10 561m 10 564m 10 567m 10 570m 10 573m 10 576m 10 579m 10 582m 10 585m 10 588m 10 591m 10 594m 10 597m 10 600m 10 603m 10 606m 10 609m 10 612m 10 615m 10 618m 10 621m 10 624m 10 627m 10 630m 10 633m 10 636m 10 639m 10 642m 10 645m 10 648m 10 651m 10 654m 10 657m 10 660m 10 663m 10 666m 10 669m 10 672m 10 675m 10 678m 10 681m 10 684m 10 687m 10 690m 10 693m 10 696m 10 699m 10 702m 10 705m 10 708m 10 711m 10 714m 10 717m 10 720m 10 723m 10 726m 10 729m 10 732m 10 735m 10 738m 10 741m 10 744m 10 747m 10 7									

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Reaching his peak

ROBIN Knox-Johnston, the round-thighed yachtsman, will be taught the ropes of a different trade when he sets out next week with the climbing party **Chris Bonington**, one of the country's virgin peaks known as the Cathedral. Bonington, too, has something to learn from the adventure.

Knox-Johnston and Bonington will depart Saturday from the Cumbrian port of Whitehaven bound for the ice-pack aboard the yachtman's veteran 44ft ketch.

Chris has had a training with the Royal Marines, a nervous Knox-Johnston said yesterday. "When they taught me to abseil, I had very tight palms. I can't now get my fingers over the rope. I had to learn to climb Suñali's mast for the first time."

The race ends with a 355-mile crossing of the North Sea to Delfzijl, in the Netherlands, on August 17. The winner will not be the first across the line, but the crew which has done most to better international understanding.



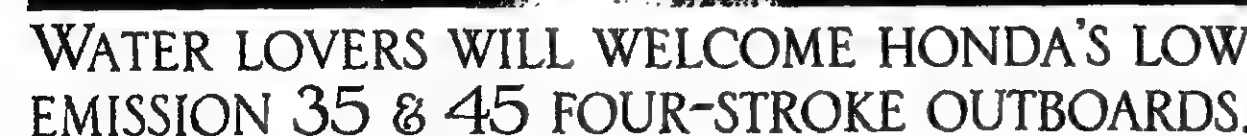
It is also the first in a series of worldwide events, which will include a transatlantic race next year for tall ships, to commemorate the Spanish discovery of the Americas.

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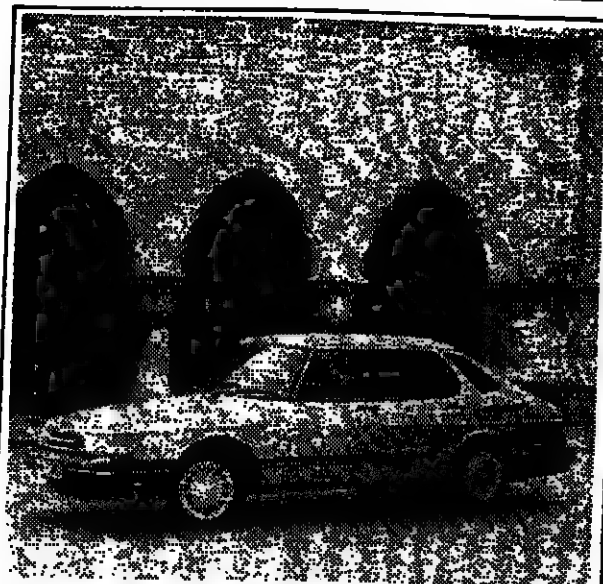
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Its distinctive shape and classic styling elevates it from the crowd. Thoroughly practical and with high-tech innovations, the 900 represents a different attitude towards performance and safety.

There is a range of models, each one with its own personality - from the practical 3 and 5 door to the excitement of the convertible and the performance of the Carsson - with a choice of injection and turbo engines.

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Showroom price war

Astra range (from the top): five-door hatch; estate; and GSi 16-valve

MoT fees rise twice

Anti-pollution regulations will cost motorists dearly later this year with two rises in MoT fees. The cost of having a car tested goes up on August 1 from £15.50 to £16.65 and for light commercial vehicles from £18 to £19.30. But fees rise again in November when stricter exhaust emission checks and other devices, such as anti-lock brakes, are included in the test. Charges go up to £20 and £22.60 respectively.



Well travelled: Rover's 827Si chews up the miles on long trips

The executive model cruises through 1,000 miles in two days to prove that its reputation for unreliability is not deserved

The poor 800 series has had a rocky passage since its launch about seven years ago. From its first showing, the tag of unreliability was stamped indelibly on the badge.

More than 16.5 cubic feet of luggage space in the fastback swallowed up my collection of bags, shoes and suits.

Motorway driving was easy for the 827Si, but the best test was on the way home along the switchback A68 over the Cheviot Hills down to Newcastle upon Tyne.

Price: £21,022; catalytic converter £403; metallic racing green paint £240; anti-lock brakes £970; 18-inch alloy wheels £817.

Engine: 24-valve, 2.7-litre Honda six-cylinder producing 177 bhp through four-speed automatic transmission.

Performance: (automatic only) 0 to 60mph in 8.6 seconds, top speed 134mph, fuel consumption 21.2mpg.

MoT fees rise twice

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86 (D) GOLF GTI 3 DOOR. Jack Green Met, SR, AW, Recaro Seats, Tinted Glass, CL, 22,000 Miles **£22,996**

86 (D) GOLF GTI 3 DOOR. White, SR, Stereo, 51,000 Miles **£5,796**

91 (C) GOLF GL MANUAL. Black, PS, SR, AW, CL, Electric Aerial, 2,500 Miles **£11,796**

90 (C) GOLF GL MANUAL. Alpine White, CL, Stereo, Split Rear Seats, 7,500 Miles **£20,796**

90 (G) GOLF GL AUTO. Stratos Blue Met, 36,000 Miles **£21,496**

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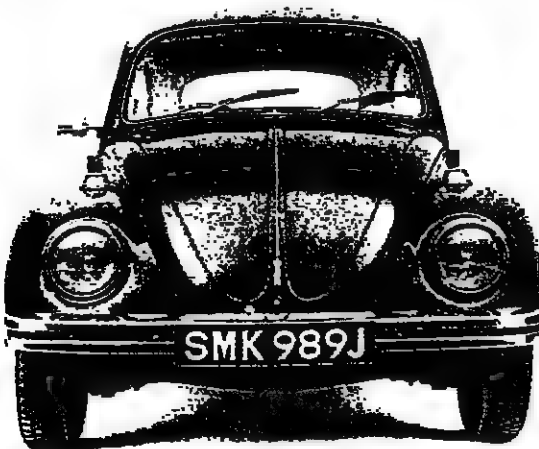
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it would normally be, because it is not as several other outstanding events involving British athletes. The next best is John Regis against Leroy Burrell in the 200 metres.

Regis ran on Wednesday, 20.22sec, only 0.03sec outside Linford Christie's British record. Burrell set a 100 metres world record in the same time, 9.96sec, on the same four weeks ago, and has run a wind-assisted 20.02sec this season. In fact there is formidable opposition everywhere for British sprinters: Linford Christie against Dennis Mitchell (100 metres), Tony McKeon against Mark Everett (800 metres), Colin Jackson against Tony Jarrett (110 metres hurdles), and Steve Cram against Jan Zelensky (hurdles).

<p>LISTS</p> <p>runners, 35.4%; M 1000 27, 25.9%; 1, 8 from 29, 20.7%;</p> <p>68 sides, 20.4%; 1000 101, 14.3%; 1000 108, 11.0%;</p>	<p>1 3964 MURRAY 4 5864 NORTH 8 3300 MARSH</p> <p>7-4 Henry's Coming Nation, 16-1 Marley</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dublin boc Derby, winner King George V Stakes at Asc Espervier Blen, 12-1 Sangster Terimon, 66-1</p>
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A slice of advice inspires a former Open champion

Weiskopf finds the touch to shoot a round to remember

By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TOM Weiskopf yesterday claimed to have played the finest round of his life after compiling a 64 in the Bell's Scottish Open at the Gleneagles Hotel. It was a truly remarkable effort by the 1973 Open champion as he returned a marvellous score on a day when strong squalls made life difficult on the Kings course.

Weiskopf, four times runner-up in the Masters, is playing in only his tenth tournament since 1984 and he was invited by the sponsors. "I would have to say that it is just about as fine a round of golf that I've ever played in my life," Weiskopf said. "A 64 is the highest I could shoot. I could have broken 60, but I don't misread me. I'm absolutely delighted."

Weiskopf put his astonishing return to form down to a conversation the previous evening with Severiano Ballesteros. "Seve came past when I was practising," Weiskopf said. "We talked a little and I said I was struggling. I've long been an admirer of his because I believe he has one of the five most classical swings that I've ever seen in the game."

"Seve told me that I was not clearing my legs fast enough. I simply said that is what happens when you get old. I'll

be 49 in November. But it hit home so I worked on that and suddenly I started to hit my long irons crisp on the range. It got me excited."

Weiskopf, out in 34, came back in only 30 shots with five birdies. The longest putt he holed was one of 20 feet at the 14th. He hit some glorious shots, including a three-iron to 12 feet for a two at the 11th; a six-iron to three feet at the 13th and a seven-iron to nine feet at the 16th. The American missed only one green.

"I only went out with the one intention of surviving the halfway cut," Weiskopf said. "But I got very anxious out there. I got excited and I was nervous. The confidence came flooding back. This is not a comeback and I know I can't beat these young guys out here."

The revival by Weiskopf came late on a day when Dragan Mijovic emerged from anonymity to capture the halfway lead with a score of 64 for a total of 130. That target proved beyond the reach of 155 rivals, including Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam and Ballesteros.

In truth, Ballesteros was out in the worst of the weather, with torrential rain making life almost intolerable in the afternoon. Even so, he was content to score 68, with

which he joined Mats Lanner (66), of Sweden, on 131.

Mijovic was born in Belgrade, but has, since 1968, lived in Canada. He has won in Mexico and in Canada although, like Weiskopf, he is only playing here this week because of a sponsor's invitation. He failed by four shots to qualify at the Tour school last winter, although he made that effort look a nonsense with five birdies.

Barry Lane, who won this tournament three years ago, holed a 15-foot putt for an eagle at the last to complete 66 for a score of 132 and Sandy Lyle continued his revival with a flawless 65 for a 133.

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